

Baccouche arrives in Syria with message

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Syria Sunday for the first official visit by a Tunisian premier in 17 years. Baccouche said he was carrying a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Hafez Al Assad about developments in Tunisia and the other Maghreb countries. "We have strong brotherly ties with the Syrian people and good relations with the Syrian leadership... and we are seeking to strengthen these ties," Baccouche said in a statement on arrival from Abu Dhabi. Tunisia announced Saturday it was resuming diplomatic relations with Egypt, the 10th country to do so since November (See page 2). Syria does not have ties with Cairo and has called on Egypt to sever all links with Israel. Baccouche is touring Arab states to explain the change of leadership in his country two months ago.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي.

Israeli soldier killed after clash

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier died of wounds Sunday after a clash last week in which troops killed three Palestinian commandos who penetrated Israel's Lebanon border, the army said. Yonatan Baranas was the sole officially confirmed Israeli casualty of last Thursday's exchange with fighters from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) who cut a hole through a border fence near a settlement. The Israeli army command also said Sunday that security forces captured an eight-man Palestinian group from Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank. Members of the cell allegedly shot and killed an Israeli settler walking through the Jerusalem's walled Old City last November, and knifed and wounded two others in January, 1987.

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Fayez in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez, who is also speaker of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), Sunday arrived in Tunis at the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation to take part in the 18th session of the APU which starts here today.

Arab panel meets on Iran-Iraq war

TUNIS (Petra) — A seven-man pan-Arab committee entrusted with following-up on the developments of the Iran-Iraq war met here Sunday. The committee groups foreign ministers of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Kuwait, Morocco, North Yemen, Iraq and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi.

Iraqi leader meets Jordanian editors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday met in Baghdad with the chief editors of the three Jordanian Arabic dailies, Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab, Jordan Television reported. The three editors, currently on an official visit to Iraq, were received Saturday by Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nasif Jassim, who spoke highly of the Jordanian press in highlighting pan-Arab issues.

Khamenei gets Soviet message

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's President Ali Khamenei received a message from the Soviet leadership Sunday, Tehran Radio reported. The radio did not reveal the contents but said the note was given to Khamenei by the Soviet ambassador to Tehran, Vladimir Gudev.

Sudanese delegation to visit Iraq

KHARTOUM (R) — A Sudanese delegation, headed by Supreme Council member Pafico Lolik, will make a five-day visit to Iraq from Feb. 4, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. Meanwhile the independent newspaper, Al Siyassa reported that two senior civil servants in the Foreign Ministry had been suspended following the assassination here on Jan. 17 of an exiled Iraqi opposition leader. The paper said that Mahdi Al Hakim, killed by an unknown gunman in a Khartoum hotel, should not have received a visa to visit the country.

Sudanese jet crashes

KHARTOUM (R) — A Sudanese MiG-23 fighter crashed on landing at Juba airport in south Sudan Saturday, killing the pilot, a military statement said Sunday. The Soviet-made plane had not been involved in military operations, an army spokesman told Reuters. He blamed the crash on a technical fault.

Contra supply plane downed; 11 killed

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua said Sunday its troops had shot down a cargo plane ferrying supplies to U.S.-backed rebels and a contra spokeswoman said all 11 Nicaraguan rebels aboard had been killed. A Nicaraguan defence ministry spokesman said the plane was part of a rebel re-supply operation organised by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), but declined to give further details saying a statement would be issued later. "Eleven people died, all of them Nicaraguans," rebel spokeswoman Marta Sacasa told Reuters by telephone from Miami.

Tunis meeting adopts Jordanian proposal to set up special panel, calls on Security Council to seek end to Israeli occupation

Arab states pledge complete support for Palestinian revolt

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

TUNIS — Arab foreign ministers Sunday unanimously demanded an end to Israel's occupation of Arab territories and pledged to continue material and political support for the Palestinians in the occupied territories to continue their anti-occupation uprising.

The ministers also adopted a Jordanian proposal to form a special panel of foreign ministers to draw up a strategy to advance efforts to convene an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict and called on the U.N. Security Council to "assume its responsibilities for putting an end to the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories."

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, speaking to reporters after the meeting, said the newly-formed committee, which includes Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, would meet soon. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Masri said the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories had created a favourable atmosphere in the international scene to help the committee

launch its task, which also includes finding means to implement pan-Arab decisions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, direct Arab diplomatic moves at the U.N. and contacts with the members of the Security Council to pave the way for an international peace conference.

The final statement issued at the end of the Tunis meeting said: "The meeting pledges to continue to support materially and politically the uprising of the Arab and Palestinian people in order to allow it to continue its struggle." Delegates at the two-day emergency meeting had shown unusual unanimity in thrashing out the final five-page document, officials were quoted as saying. "The atmosphere of the gathering was in the spirit of the uprising," said senior Arab League spokesman Mohammad L. Farrar. Libya called the meeting of



Taher Al Masri

Arab foreign ministers after six weeks of violent anti-occupation protests in the West Bank and Gaza.

It took some two and a half hours to put final touches to the draft resolution. Farrar said there had been no differences, only certain "observations" from the unidentified delegation on a sentence dealing with called-for international Middle East peace conference.

The final resolution called for a peace conference on the basis of earlier Arab League summit resolutions. The call on the U.N. Security Council to adopt resolutions to

end the Israeli occupation of all Arab and Palestinian territory referred also to the Golan Heights and South Lebanon as well as Gaza and the West Bank.

The final resolution also invited the United Nations to supervise any Israeli withdrawal from land occupied in 1967. It called on the Security Council to stop Israel's inhuman measures, including "assassinations, torture, banishment and detention."

Egypt, the only Arab state to have signed a treaty with Israel, was not mentioned in the final communiqué.

Syria had proposed that Arab states with links with Egypt urge Cairo to sever all diplomatic relations with Israel.

But Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa said he was satisfied with the results of the meeting, and that 80 per cent of the Syrian draft resolution had been accepted.

"There was a tacit understanding that all Arab states would concentrate on this issue," he told reporters.

When the meeting opened Saturday, Klibi described Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as "heroes who have roused the world's esteem and admiration."

(Continued on page 4)

Genscher discusses peace with Israelis and Arabs

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher conveyed his country's concern over the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to Israeli leaders Sunday and explored prospects for peace in the region.

Genscher, president of the European Council of Ministers, met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, parliamentarians and Palestinian leaders before he was due to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We discussed the problems of the occupied territories and we expressed our concerns," Genscher told reporters, adding they also discussed hopes for an international Middle East peace conference.

The European Community (EC), of which West Germany is currently president, and the United Nations Security Council

have criticised Israel over its actions against Palestinian protesters.

Genscher, who arrived Saturday for a 24-hour visit, said he "presented the positions that we have adopted in the EC" on the troubles and peace talks.

"Europe must ask itself what contributions it can make for a solution of the problems of the region," Genscher said. Solutions could not be imposed from the outside, he added.

"The talks went quite well," Peres told Reuters. "We are trying to see whether we can find an opportunity to continue the peace momentum. Some ideas were raised and they need to be checked."

Genscher told seven leading Palestinians from the occupied territories that West Germany and the EC vigorously supported an international peace conference on the Middle East, participants

said. Gaza lawyer Faez Abu Rahme said the Palestinians called for more European pressure on Israel to participate in an international conference.

"We told him this uprising was a call to the nations of the world to exert pressure on Israel to sit at an international conference and to refrain from any malpractices," he said.

Six of the seven Palestinians presented a document calling for a Palestinian state alongside Israel and saying the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The seventh, Mayor Elias Freij, said he never signed such documents as a matter of principle but endorsed its main points. Legislator Amnon Rubinstein of the Liberal Party said after a meeting with Genscher that the

minister "wanted to allay Israeli fears of Soviet participation in an international conference."

"His point was that one has to make a distinction between participation in an international forum and influence," Rubinstein told the AP.

Senior Labour Party legislator Abba Eban said he told Genscher the violence in the occupied territories has made the status quo unbearable and has underscored the need to push forward the stalled peace efforts.

Eban said he also told Genscher that the EC should work with the United States to develop a peace initiative.

"I said Europe should avoid separating itself from the United States. There should be a unified Western position, not an American position and a different European position," Eban told the AP.

Analysts predict bloodier uprising if Israel continues to reject just peace

Following is the second part of a two-part article. The first part appeared in the issue of Jan. 24.

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WHILE it is difficult to see what will actually materialise from the Israeli elections since the issue involves the Israeli people, the question remains whether the Israeli electorate has learnt any lessons from the Palestinian uprising.

"The main question is: Which party the Americans want to support," said Palestine National Council member Assad Abdul Rahman, director general of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

Columnist Tareq Masarweh believes that though the daily life of Americans is not affected by the uprising, U.S. public opinion is against what is happening in the occupied territories. He quoted a U.S. presidential candidate, Republican Robert Dole, as saying that while the U.S. supports Israel and gives it weapons, the Israelis are in turn using American weapons against teenagers.

However, the Americans have not been putting enough pressure on Israel, and their abstention over a U.N. resolution denouncing Israel's deportation of Palestinians was negative, said the head of Jerusalem Centre for Development Studies, Abdul Jawad Saleh, deported mayor of the West Bank of Al Bireh.

"The Americans have not been abiding by a congressional act that prohibits the U.S. from aiding countries that violate human rights," he said.

According to Saleh, the only thing which would force the U.S. to react in a different way is the threat being posed to U.S. relations with moderate Arab states.

"It will not be easy for Arab states to sit idle before their people. Although pressure is being released through media coverage, those states at least will have to pressure the U.S. to do something," said Saleh. He saw a threat of a chain reaction effect: "The challenge the young people are putting up in the occupied territories against the Israeli military force is giving hope to the Arab World at large," said Saleh.

The chairman of the World Affairs Council, Dr. Kamel Abu

Jaber, professor of political science at the University of Jordan, added that it was the first time in 20 years that the Arab masses have had their hopes raised and some of their lost pride restored. The demonstrations in Arab states held in solidarity with the Palestinians were signs of Arab frustration with U.S. policies in the region, most of those interviewed stated. "I don't know if the U.S. is aware, but other signals to them include the bombs thrown outside the American and British consulates in Jerusalem and the burning of American flags at the Al Aqsa Mosque," said Saleh.

Solution from within

Since the uprising has demonstrated the resilience of the Palestinian resistance, Masarweh points out, the Arab states should gain faith in their people and realise that the solution to their problem comes from within, not from London, Paris or New York. He said that while the Arab states were willing to make so many concessions to Israel for a political solution — "it is now obvious that more concessions won't convince Israel to sit and negotiate because the more concessions the Arabs make, the more they want the Israelis appetite for more."

Arab states had made many compromises because they were weak but the uprising has tipped the balance, Masarweh contended. The losses for Israel during the past weeks have been great; "just because the labourers have not gone to work in Israel, over \$50 million has been lost," he said.

According to Masarweh, only 10 per cent of the Arab labourers, who approximately number 45,000 from Gaza and 75,000 from the West Bank, have gone to work in Israel, "and they (the workers) are especially needed now because of the citrus season."

Saleh stresses that the Arab World should ensure the continuation of the strikes by helping solve the economic problems the inhabitants face. He suggests that instead of the workers striking one month, the Arab World should help them strike for six months.

PLO should act

He gave additional suggestions. "The PLO should not just be an

(Continued on page 4)

Hundreds of protesters clash with Israeli troops in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus Sunday and at least two protesters were shot and wounded by the occupation forces.

In Gaza, the Israeli army announced only one of the strip's eight refugee camps, Jabalya, remained under total curfew, while a neighbourhood in a second camp, Rafah, also was curfewed.

In the West Bank, curfews were in force in the Askar refugee camp and the village of Ur Atahia, the army said.

In Arab neighbourhoods in the Jerusalem area, Palestinians burned tyres and hurled stones and a commercial strike remained in force.

In the Ramallah clash, the Palestinian hit by a bullet in the hip was identified as 27-year-old Jamal Abu Shawi and the army said a second Palestinian was injured by rubber bullets.

Gazans have started returning to their jobs in Israel for the first time since the unrest began. The army said 40,000 crossed the Erez checkpoint separating the Gaza Strip from Israel Sunday, backing up traffic for 12 kilometres.

Move against journalists

Palestinian newspaper editor Hanna Simora of the daily Al Fajr was banned from travelling outside for three months on the grounds his travel abroad presented "a danger to national security," police said.

Simora urged a campaign of Palestinian civil disobedience earlier this month.

Israel also ordered the editor of the Arab Jerusalem Arabic newspaper Al Shaab, Salah Zuhair, detained for six months without trial, an army spokesman said.

Israeli debate

Meanwhile, the heating instead of bullets policy announced last week by the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, continued to generate concern at home and abroad.

In a closed-door cabinet meeting Sunday, Rabin was reported to have "reassured" ministers that batons were used only to suppress protests, not against Arabs already in custody.

Some 400 Palestinians have been injured since the uprising erupted on Dec. 9. Hospitals and medical workers say more than 200 have suffered fractured limbs since Rabin's statement last week.

Reporters have seen troops with batons and pickaxe handles beat Arabs on the street, far from any demonstration, and Palestinians say they have been clubbed in their homes.

The Haaretz daily reported Sunday that the defence ministry has ordered 10,000 batons of "finest quality hardwood," apparently for issue to troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Some members of Rabin's Labour Party criticised his policies, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres telling army radio he opposed the forced opening of shops closed through strike action and the use of mass curfews.

(Continued on page 5)



A Palestinian protester lobbs an ignited petrol bomb in Arab Jerusalem

Iranian jets bomb Iraqi border township; 1 killed

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraq said Sunday two Iranian jet fighters Sunday bombed a border township in northern Iraq, killing a civilian and wounding 17 others.

The Iraqi News Agency said the township of Sayyed Sadeq, about 260 kilometres north of Baghdad was raided at 11:35 a.m. (0835 GMT).

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) confirmed that Iranian jets raided targets in the area but claimed they bombed Iraqi radar installations.

Fahd urges U.N. action

King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, acting on behalf of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), has urged the U.N. Security Council to get Iran to end its war with Iraq, the Saudi Press Agency reported Sunday.

The agency said the king sent messages to permanent and other members of the U.N. body demanding that they take the "necessary steps" to implement Security Council Resolution 598, which called for a ceasefire and a negotiated end to the Gulf conflict.

Fahd was acting in his capacity as current chairman of the GCC, a military-economic alliance comprising Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

The Saudi monarch, acting on the decision of the GCC heads of state at their annual summit conference held in Riyadh last month, is "demanding that the international community, led by the Security Council, shoulder its responsibility in taking the necessary steps to ensure implementation of Resolution 598 on the Iran-Iraq war," the agency said.

The United States has leading a campaign at the world body to produce a follow-up resolution to 598 that would clamp an arms embargo on Iran should it persist on carrying on the war with Iraq.

Minister reaffirms French commitment in Arab Gulf

RIYADH (Agencies) — French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur said Sunday France was committed to maintaining its military presence in the Gulf region and ruled out any reduction in the size of its Gulf fleet.

"The action of France remains constant," he told reporters after meeting King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. "We have taken a position on this issue, and we are determined to follow through."

Balladur, on a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, said France had warships in the Gulf not out of commercial considerations but

out of a need to protect French seamen. He also said that he and Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khalil had agreed on a memorandum of understanding to coordinate economic policies.

Balladur leaves Monday for the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Jordan.

The French official told reporters that France's warship fleet was in the Gulf to maintain freedom of navigation for "our ships."

Balladur is due in Amman Wednesday.



Grindlays Bank hosts Reception at Marriott

Mr. Barnes — Regional Director, Middle East and General Manager — Alan Cooper greeting distinguished guests — yesterday evening.

INSIDE

- Amal lifts siege of Rashidiyeh, page 2
- Queen opens new UDD headquarters, page 3
- Tunisian elections — a real test, page 4
- 145 countries to attend AIDS talks, page 5
- Wilander foils Cash's bid at Australian Open, page 6
- Iraq encourages private sector, page 7
- 10 killed in Bangladesh police firing, page 8

Amal militia lifts siege of Rashidiyeh

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement lifted a nearly three-year-old siege of the Rashidiyeh Palestinian refugee camp in Tyre Sunday after ending similar blockades of Beirut camps in a bid to end their war with Palestinian fighters.

Rashidiyeh, which houses about 18,000 U.N.-registered refugees, and the Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh shantytowns in Beirut, had been under siege since May 1985 when Amal, headed by Justice Minister Nabih Berri moved to halt what it saw as the reconstruction of a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) powerbase in Lebanon.

Amal withdrew its fighters from positions ringing Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh Wednesday and Syrian peacekeeping troops moved into buffer zones around the two shantytowns.

Police in Tyre said their units would take charge of Rashidiyeh's security and would set up a checkpoint at its main entrance Monday.

The Syrians maintain 25,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon under a 1976 mandate from the Arab League. They also deployed a 7,500-strong law-enforcing contingent in west Beirut last February, but they have no troops in South Lebanon.

The PLO has claimed that the Syrians have arrested about a dozen members of its mainstream Fatah faction since their deployment Wednesday around Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh. But the Syrian army command in Beirut denied the charge.

Hundreds of Amal militiamen withdrew Sunday from positions around the sprawling Rashidiyeh camp, 80 kilometres south of Beirut in this southern port town. The militiamen packed their belongings and removed all checkpoints and earth barricades encircling the shantytown before they pulled out.

Men, women and children were seen moving freely in and out of Rashidiyeh, on Tyre's northern edge, after Amal's withdrawal. It was the first time that men had come out of the camp since it was blockaded.

Berri announced last Saturday

that his fighters would lift their siege of the two camps in Beirut and Rashidiyeh as a tribute to Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At least 2,500 people were killed in the three-year-old "camps war" which broke in Beirut in 1985.

The violence spread to Rashidiyeh as well as villages east of



Two Palestinian children peer out of their war-ravaged home in Shatila, and raise the V-for-victory sign. The siege of the camp by the Amal militia was lifted Wednesday.

the southern port town of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, in October 1986.

Bulldozers knocked down a few earth mounds around Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh Sunday, keeping only those at the main entrances to the two camps. Rubble inside both devastated shantytowns was being bulldozed, too, police said.

Tunisians vote in by-elections

TUNIS (R) — Tunisians voted Sunday in the country's first by-elections since President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali took power nearly three months ago.

The results will be announced Monday.

The five by-elections, including two in deposed President Habib Bourguiba's home town of Monastir, were called after deputies resigned following Ben Ali's takeover on Nov. 7, declaring Bourguiba, 84, to be senile.

Three of the deputies were members of Bourguiba's cabinet. Two resigned because subsequent official appointments made them ineligible for parliament.

The vote follows a municipal by-election last month in which the ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PDS), which has dominated national politics since independence in 1956, suffered the first defeat in its history.

The party lost in the eastern municipality of Ksar Hellal to an independent list supporting Ben Ali.

A total of 25 candidates — five Destourian Socialists, four Communists and 16 independents — are standing in polls in Tunis, Zaghouan, the east coast resort of Monastir and the southern mining town of Gafsa.

All the independents have declared their support for Ben Ali and a programme in which he promised constitutional reform and greater democracy.

Most opposition parties did not field candidates, the main recognised opposition, the Movement of Socialist Democrats, declaring it was not taking part because it considered a 1986 poll which elected the present parliament invalid.

Party leader Ahmad Mestiri, who has called for early general elections since Ben Ali took power, said the decision did not constitute a boycott.

Mubarak heads for Europe and U.S. today with new peace plan

By John Rogers
Reuters

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak leaves for Western Europe and the United States Monday with a new plan to end Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed and promote long-term peace in the Middle East.

In talks with leaders in Bonn, London, Washington, Paris and Rome, Mubarak will argue that anti-Israeli protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip demonstrate the urgent need for an international drive for lasting Arab-Israeli peace.

The starting point, he says, should be a six-month halt "to all forms of violence and oppression" in the occupied territories, where Israelis have shot dead at least 39 Palestinians in the past six weeks.

A moratorium on violence is the key proposal in a five-point plan Mubarak unveiled last week.

It also demanded that Israel must move towards an international Middle East peace conference — on which its leaders are deeply split — and stop Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza.

"The initiative is aimed at creating a suitable climate for an international conference," a cabinet spokesman said.

The centrepiece of Mubarak's 12-day trip, his most intense diplomatic campaign in the West for 18 months, will be talks with President Ronald Reagan, whom he last met in September, 1985.

Egypt occupies a special place in Middle East politics as the only Arab state to have formal relations with Israel after their 1979 U.S.-brokered treaty.

Financial backing

Egypt is also burdened by \$40 billion of foreign debt and relies heavily on Western support. Mubarak last toured leading



Hosni Mubarak

West European countries in mid-1986 before Cairo applied for help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

It receives \$2.3 billion a year in U.S. military and economic aid, second only to Israel, and is high on lists of other nations for special treatment. It is second only to India as a recipient of West German aid, for instance.

Western diplomats said Mubarak would renew arguments for continued backing for Egypt as it tried to implement reforms agreed with the IMF last May while keeping domestic unrest at bay.

They said Egypt, the most populous Arab state, needed to keep meeting IMF targets and Mubarak wanted to shore up political backing in preparation for a fresh bid soon to reschedule debts.

Mubarak, 59, will meet Western leaders with his prestige enhanced by Egypt's new-found relations in the Arab World.

Since November, 10 Arab states have buried objections to Cairo's treaty with Israel and restored

diplomatic ties. Only Syria, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen and Lebanon have not resumed relations.

Mubarak held talks with leaders in eight Arab states this month on a tour which stressed Egypt's support for them against Iran. He also met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and is due to hold talks with Morocco's King Hassan next week.

He is due to spend five hours in Bonn and Monday night in London before leaving for Washington Tuesday. The rest of his itinerary has not been announced, but he is expected to fly to Paris next Sunday, Rabat on Feb. 2 and Rome on Feb. 4.

Diplomats said he was likely to meet the Pope during a two-day stay in Italy.

Syria and Damascus-backed Palestinian organisations assailed Saturday Mubarak's call for an end to violence between Palestinians and Israelis in the occupied territories.

"This uprising has not only shaken the Israeli occupation, it has also expressed rejection of the Camp David accords and their symbols," Syrian Radio said.

Arafat told Arab League delegates in Tunis Saturday that the revolt would continue.

Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the former Greek Catholic patriarchal vicar of Jerusalem, was also quoted Saturday as criticising Mubarak's call.

"The call issued by the Egyptian regime to our brothers, sisters and sons to stop their struggle is a big mistake," Syrian papers quoted the archbishop as saying.

"The Palestinian who is resisting the occupation without any weapons is a mujahid (holy fighter). There is a big difference between the violence and jihad (holy war)... self-defence is approved by all international laws."

ADC challenges closure of Palestine Information Office in U.S.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Following the Dec. 2, U.S. district court decision to uphold a State Department order to close the Palestine Information Office (PIO), the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) sought and obtained the pro bono legal services of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman, P.C. and the Center for Constitutional Rights to prepare an *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") brief in support of an appeal filed in mid-December by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The *amicus* brief contends that the U.S. district court ruling upholding the Department of State's position wrongfully expanded the definition of "foreign

mission" in contravention of the statute. It further argues that such an expansive definition could indiscriminately jeopardize numerous domestic organisations. The brief further contends that the court's ruling violates the speech and organisational rights of all U.S. organisations and individuals who engage in advocacy on behalf of foreign principals. Finally, the brief argues that the closing of the PIO is in violation of fundamental international law obligations of the United States. ADC officials said earlier this week.

In an effort to demonstrate the broad base of opposition that exists to the administration's attempt to infringe on the First Amendment right to free speech

of Palestinian-Americans, ADC, in conjunction with other coalition groups, successfully obtained the support of more than 50 other organisations and individuals who all agreed to join in the brief. Among those who signed on were Arab and Jewish groups, major civil rights and religious organisations, members of Congress and former U.S. ambassadors, the officials said.

In its continuing effort to raise public awareness about this highly controversial attempt by the administration to suppress Palestinian political opinion in the U.S., ADC has been actively participating in debates on the issue at community meetings throughout the country and in the media. ADC officials have met

with officials at the highest levels of the Department of State to voice their concerns about both the constitutional and diplomatic ramifications of Secretary of State George Shultz's order to close the PIO.

ADC has mobilised its national membership to oppose both the government order and the parallel legislation to close the PIO. Thousands of members of ADC have, in recent months, communicated their deep concern on this matter to their congressional representatives, editorial boards of major American newspapers, and to the Department of State. ADC has also participated in informational briefings on Capitol Hill.

Irish ambassador seeks information on mystery hostage

BEIRUT (AP) — Irish Ambassador Patrick McCabe said Sunday he was seeking word on kidnapped university teacher Brian Keenan, whose fate has been a mystery since his abduction April 11, 1986.

McCabe, 42, of Dublin, who is based in Baghdad, also is a non-resident ambassador to Lebanon. He flew into Beirut airport Saturday.

"I have come here to meet people who could be helpful in trying to trace Brian Keenan," McCabe told the AP Sunday. Keenan, 36, comes from the

Ormeau road district of Belfast. Although that is British territory, he was travelling on an Irish passport.

There has been no word of Keenan, who taught English at the American University of Beirut, since he was seized by gunmen in west Beirut.

But Marcel Coudray, a French hostage freed Nov. 10, 1986, by the pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation, said another captive had thrust a note in his hand saying he was Irish.

That was the only reported sighting of Keenan, the only

Irishman among the 21 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon since March 1985.

The others are eight Americans, four Frenchmen, three Britons, an Italian, a West German, an Indian and two unidentified men.

"We lack hard information as to who might be holding Brian Keenan. I hope to renew contacts with influential people who might be helpful in trying to trace Brian Keenan," McCabe said.

He was interviewed by telephone at his hotel in the mountain resort town of Brummana in

the Christian heartland north of Beirut.

McCabe plans to cross Beirut's dividing line to the Western sector Monday to meet with acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, he said.

He appealed to anyone who knows about Keenan's whereabouts to "come forth and meet me."

Two officials of Sinn Fein, political arm of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) that is fighting to end British rule in northern Ireland, visited Beirut two weeks ago seeking word of Keenan.

Tunisian flag raised in Cairo after 9-year break

CAIRO (Agencies) — Tunisia's ambassador raised his country's flag at his embassy Sunday, a day after Tunisia and Egypt, announced immediate resumption of diplomatic relations after a break of almost nine years.

A small crowd watched as Ambassador Nouredine Hamdani hoisted the flag. Hussein Ali Kamel, head of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Arab department, attended the brief ceremony.

Tunisia was the 10th Arab country to resume relations with Cairo since the Nov. 8-11 Arab summit in Amman declared that each Arab state was free to restore relations with Egypt unilaterally.

Most Arab countries broke with Egypt in 1979 to protest the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. All except Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, and Lebanon have resumed relations.

In a short speech, Hamdani lauded Egyptian-Tunisian relations and expressed hope that the resumption of ties will increase cooperation in all fields.

In Muscat, Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche said Saturday that Egypt's reacceptance by the Arab World did not mean a quick return of the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo.

Baccouche, speaking before his departure for Abu Dhabi after a two-day visit to Oman, told reporters:

"If the Arabs agree to transfer (Arab League headquarters) from Tunis to anywhere — Oman or Cairo — we will agree. (But) this problem is not for today."

Tunisian officials travelling with Baccouche said construction of a new building to house the Arab League headquarters in Tunis would begin later this year.

Unknown group issues threat against Canada

SIDON (AP) — A previously unknown group calling itself homeland defence organisation warned Canadian authorities in a statement delivered Saturday against "extraditing to Israel" a Palestinian who faces deportation.

"We warn the Canadian authorities of the consequences of extraditing hero Mahmoud Mohammad Issa Mohammad to the Zionist entity," said the 28-word typewritten Arabic statement.

"We also remind the Canadian government that there is no Canadian hostage up till now in Lebanon," said the statement that was delivered to a Western news agency office in Sidon.

That appeared to be a threat that the group would start kidnapping Canadians if Mohammad was extradited.

There was no way of authenticating the communique, which gave no indication of the group's

affiliations. Canadian authorities Monday launched proceedings for the deportation of Mohammad, who entered Canada by slipping past security and immigration authorities in February 1987.

However, Canadian officials have made no decision on where Mohammad will be sent if he is ordered out of the country. They said he is of Lebanese background but was in Spain when he applied to enter Canada.

There is at least one Canadian staying in Beirut. Chris Gnanou, a surgeon, has worked at a hospital in the Palestinian refugee camp of Bourj Al Barajneh during a military siege of the shantytown. The three-year blockade was lifted Wednesday.

Police say they know of no other Canadian staying in South Lebanon or any other Muslim-populated areas of the war-torn nation.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION	21:05 Evening Show Contd.
Tel: 77311-19	22:00 News Summary
	22:45 Evening Show Continued
	23:00 Evening Show Summary
	23:45 Evening Show Continued
	24:00 Close Down
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30 Koran	
15:55 Programme review	
16:00 Children's programme	
16:20 Punky Brouster	
16:45 Al Manahel	
17:10 I could do that	
17:35 Oliver Twist	
17:55 Educational programme	
18:15 Arabic series	
19:10 Local programme	
19:40 Programme review	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Arabic Series	
21:30 Local programme	
22:10 Programme on prominent Arab Writers	
23:00 News Summary	
23:10 Prominent Arab figures (contd.)	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00 Documentary "Rue Carnot"	
19:00 News in French	
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Are You Being Served? (Cont. Unbecoming)	
21:10 Moonlighting	
22:00 News in English	
22:20 Feature film: "I want to go Home"	
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW	
Tel: 77411-19	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsdesk	
08:00 Morning Show	
10:00 News Summary	
10:05 Just a Minute	
11:00 My Music	
11:30 Readings	
12:00 News Summary	
12:05 Pop Session	
13:00 News Summary	
13:05 Pop Session Contd.	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:30 Special Feature	
15:00 Concert Hour	
16:00 News Summary	
16:05 Instrumentals	
16:30 Old Favourites	
17:00 Young Sound	
17:30 Pop Session	
18:00 News Summary	
18:05 Sports Roundup	
18:30 Music	
19:00 News Desk	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
21:00 News Summary	

TODAY'S EVENTS	Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
EXHIBITIONS	SERVICE CLUBS
★ A painting exhibition by German artist Ingoborg Grosjean at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).	The Amman Lions Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
★ An exhibition about medical research in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28).	Lions Philadelphia Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
★ Plastic art exhibition, by Marwan Allan at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Jan. 31).	Philadelphian Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
FILM	Rotary Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
★ Dernier domicile connu at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	Royal Automobile Club: Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.
FEATURE FILM	CHURCHES
★ "In the Heat of the Night" at 7 p.m. at the American Centre.	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.
CULTURAL CENTRES	Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 657440.
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
American Centre 644371	Terresanta Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
British Council 641520	Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdali, Tel. 623541.
French Cultural Centre 637009	Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence Tel. 601359.
Goethe Institute 641993	Armenian Catholic Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203	Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049	St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Turkish Cultural Centre 637777	Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
Haya Arts Centre 665198	Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd): Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 8.30 p.m. Rev. N. Saur 811295.
Husseini Youth City 6671816	Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church): Interdenominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 8.30 p.m. Tel. 823085, Rev. Veli.
Y.W.C.A. 641793	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon): Tel. 815817, 821264.
Y.W.M.C.A. 642521	
Armenian Municipal Library 657111	
Univ. of Jordan Library 843553	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	20:15 Baghdad (IA)
	01:30 Paris (AF)
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	PRAYER TIMES
ARRIVALS	05:10 Fajr
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS	06:31 (Sunrise) Dhahran
(Terminal 1)	11:48 Dhuhr
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)	14:40 Asr
09:20 Lameck (RJ)	17:05 Maghrib
09:30 Cairo (RJ)	18:26 Isha
09:30 Damascus (RJ)	
09:30 Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)	
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)	
09:40 San'a, Jeddah (RJ)	
09:50 Dhahran (RJ)	
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:45 Cairo (RJ)	
17:35 New York (RJ)	
17:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	
18:45 Bangkok (RJ)	
23:55 Baghdad (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
09:20 Baghdad (IA)	
09:30 Cairo (MS)	
12:00 Muscat, Bahrain (GP)	
13:40 Kuwait (KU)	
18:25 Beirut (ME)	
19:15 Vienna (IA)	
09:30 Baghdad (AF)	
DEPARTURES	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS	
(Terminal 1)	
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)	
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
11:30 Paris (RJ)	
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)	
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)	
12:30 Cairo (RJ)	
19:35 Kuwait (RJ)	
19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
19:55 Baghdad (RJ)	
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)	
20:45 Cairo (RJ)	
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
06:30 Cairo, London (BA)	
06:30 Beirut (MEA)	
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)	
16:20 Cairo (MS)	
16:20 Vienna (IA)	
13:45 Bahrain (GP)	
15:00 Kuwait (KU)	

EMERGENCIES	NIGHT DUTY
Amman governorate 891228	AMMAN:
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199	Dr. Sulaiman Khayyat 891880
Civil Defence Beirut 271235, 273131	Dr. Nasseem Qaddumi 786680
Civil Defence Quesneish 770733	Dr. Munther Al Quraini 776258
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306	Dr. Issa Haidar 637123
Ambulance 193, 773111	Firas pharmacy 661912
Amman downtown fire brigade 773336	Ferdous pharmacy 640495
First aid 630341	Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Blood Bank 778303	Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Civil Defence rescue 661111	Al Solam pharmacy 636730
Fire headquarters 623903	Yacoub pharmacy 640495
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777	Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Police headquarters 639141	TAXIS:
Traffic police 8963901	Kayali taxi 636730
Electric Power Co. 6362814, 634881	Tasnia taxi 644660
Municipal water complaints 7711258	Tamer taxi 664467
Queen Alia Intl. Airport (06) 533040	Raghad taxi 842400
	Raqab taxi 736428
	Sayed taxi 776131
HOSPITALS	DEBT:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381372	Dr. Ibrahim Rabadi 242796
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn 6428166	Sharaf pharmacy 75825
Al-Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn 6424112	ZARQA:
Jabal Amman Maternity 643262	Dr. Nasseem Ayed Ziyadat 981696
Mathas, J. Amman 636140	Khalifeh pharmacy 885417
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714	
Shmeisani Hospital 669131	GENERAL
University Hospital 845945	Jordan Television 773111/19
Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672795	Radio Jordan 774111/19
The Islamic, Abdali 66613737	Ministry of Tourism 642311
Al-Abdi, Abdali 6641646	Hotel complaints 666412
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013	Price complaints 666176
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511728	Telephone Information 12
Army, Marja 8916115	Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050	Overseas calls 17
Amal Hospital 674155	Repair service 11
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in J.O.D. per kg.	
Apple (French) 420 / 360	Lemon 150 / 100
Apple (green) 470 / 400	Mandarin 180 / 120
Banana 250 / 200	Marrow 140 / 100
Banana (Mekammar) 300 / 240	Onion (green) 120 / 80
Beans 360 / 300	Onion (dry) 220 / 180
Beans (broad) 650 / 550	Oranges (Abu sara) 300 / 240
Cabbage 90 / 50	Oranges (Shamouti) 240 / 180
Carrot 250 / 200	Pepper (hot) 360 / 200
Cauliflower 120 / 80	Pepper (sweet) 130 / 100
Cucumbers 320 / 170	Potato 140 / 100
Dates (box) 1000 / 800	Radish 70 / 50
Eggplant (large) 90 / 60	Spinach 120 / 80
Garlic 260 / 200	Tomatoes 130 / 90
Grapefruit 140 / 100	Turnip 160 / 100

APU meeting to focus on achieving Arab goals

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez left Sunday for Tunis to take part in the 18th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) due to open today.

In its four-day meeting, the APU will discuss the role of Arab parliamentarians in achieving higher Arab objectives, and confronting the threats to the Arab Nation, particularly with regard to the Palestine question, according to Parliament sources here.

The APU meeting will also focus on the prospect of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East, the

sources added. They said that the Arab parliamentarians would look into ways to enlist more international support for the just Arab causes and the Palestinian people currently revolting against Israeli occupation.

In addition, the sources said that the meeting would discuss U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Gulf conflict and review the situation in Lebanon.

Fayez is accompanied to the meeting by the following deputies: Hazem Nuseibeh, Salman Qudat, Mithqal Al Odattallah, Rizk Al Bataineh, Ma'ruf Rabbas and Carlos D'Amas.

Hamzeh meets with participants in birth spacing training course

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh met Sunday with participants in a training course on birth spacing and underlined the importance of spreading awareness among the public about the need to stem

Jordan's population increase. The minister was briefed on the course which began on Jan. 16, with the participation of at least 40 doctors and midwives employed in mother and child care centres throughout the country.

Zarqa presses ahead with anti-pollution drive

ZARQA (Petra) — Nearly 90 per cent of the wastewater in the Zarqa River has been brought under control because a wastewater treatment plant built at Khirbet Al Samra by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), as well as continuous monitoring of the pollution situation by the environment department, Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh said Sunday.

He said that the wastewater flowing into the Zarqa River at a rate of 2,050 cubic metres per day was being treated continually. Qatameh added that the treated water was being used to irrigate forests or recycled for other purposes.

According to the Zarqa governor, the government has allocated JD 25 million for major agricultural projects in the Zarqa River Basin depending largely on Zarqa River water flowing into the reservoir behind the King

Talal Dam. He said that over the past 10 years, increased quantities of pollutants were dumped into the Zarqa River. For this reason, the government has introduced regulations stipulating that industries and factories along the river build their own waste treatment plants or face high fines, Qatameh noted.

In addition, Qatameh said the big population increase in the Zarqa region had caused a corresponding increase in river pollution, thus further warranting these regulations and the construction of the treatment plants.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the subject Director of the Zarqa Agriculture Department Mohammad Lawzi said that pollution in the Zarqa River had caused extensive damage to crops along its banks and throughout the whole basin.

Arab Doctors Union voices full support for Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi Sunday returned home after heading the Jordanian delegation to the 24th session of the Arab Doctors Union (ADU) concluded in Cairo Saturday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon his return Abbadi said that the meeting pledged its full support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and condemned the Israeli authorities' repressive measures against the Palestinian people.

The participants condemned the Iranian regime for continuing its aggression against Iraq and its rejection of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598.

The meeting further called for solving the Lebanese problem and for supporting the Lebanese people in their attempts to liberate South Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.

On the professional level, the participants welcomed a decision taken by the Council of Arab Health Ministers to Arabise instruction in medical faculties and to declare the next ten years as

the Arab Decade for Arabisation of Medical and Health Sciences.

Abbadi added that the meeting decided that all medical research reports presented to the ADU be prepared in Arabic, and that no research reports written in other languages be accepted without Arabic translations enclosed.

During the two-day meeting, the doctors discussed 300 working papers on primary health care, skin diseases, optical, cardiac and internal diseases, in addition to recent breakthroughs in the field of gynaecology.

Cabinet allocates funds for environment study

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has allocated JD 15,000 for a Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) study on the environmental situation in Jordan.

The study aims at defining the effect of every element and substance on the general environment according to internationally-recognised standards.

The Cabinet also formed a committee comprising representatives of the RSCN and the ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to supervise the study and design its executive programme.

The Cabinet also announced the formation of Jordan's delegation to the fourth meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council due to open in Tunis on Feb. 1. The delegation, which will be led by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Al Tabbaa includes representatives from the department of economic cooperation and studies at the Ministry of Industry.

Jordan, Morocco to hold talks on promoting trade

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Moroccan Higher Committee is due to meet tomorrow to agree on lists of commodities and national products to be exchanged by the two countries through their respective commercial centres in Amman and Rabat.

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf said that each of the two commercial centres would be allowed to sell products worth \$8 million, up from \$5 million, and that the two sides would discuss the subject of holding trade exhibitions displaying each country's national products. Saqqaf said that the Moroccan delegation to the meet-

ing would arrive here Monday.

Jordanian-Egyptian trade links

Also on the subject of trade, a group of Jordanian and Egyptian businesspeople will meet in Amman later next month to discuss ways to promote bilateral trade links.

An announcement said that a newly-formed society of Jordanian and Egyptian businesspeople would hold its third meeting in the port city on Feb. 25. The two-day meeting will be devoted to discussing economic issues of mutual concern and prospects for joint investments designed to promote Jordanian-Egyptian economic cooperation, the statement said.

W. Bank, Gaza produce to be allowed into E. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Sunday announced that a number of agricultural products would be allowed into East Bank from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said that 30 tonnes of onions from Jericho, three tonnes of cactus leaves for planting, 750 tonnes of boiled cheese from the

West Bank and 150 tonnes of oranges from the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be allowed in immediately.

Hmoud also said that potato shipments from Nabulus and Toulkarm, and strawberries from Gaza would be allowed into the East Bank until the end of the month.

Queen inaugurates new UDD headquarters, praises success of housing projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated the new headquarters of the Urban Development Department (UDD) at Marka and reviewed with officials the department's projects.

Among leading officials to welcome the Queen were Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber and UDD Director-General Hisham Al Zagha, as well as Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Director In'am Al Mufti.

Zagha briefed Her Majesty on UDD projects which, he said, are aimed to ensure homes for people with limited incomes, and to provide them with essential social and health care services and education, in cooperation with concerned authorities.

The UDD director also outlined the department's future projects, particularly those included in the five-year national development plan.

Later, Zagha presented the Queen with the department's shield.

Queen Noor voiced her satisfaction with the success of UDD projects, as well as her appreciation for its efforts in developing social and health services.

She urged department officials to help spread awareness among the public about UDD programmes and services offered in their regions.

A UDD spokesman said that the department had carried out its first housing project, which entailed building 3,000 housing units for the benefit of 20,000 people at Qweismeh, Marka and Ruseifa. These housing complexes for low-income families were provided with basic infrastructure and schools and health centres, according to the spokesman.

In addition, the project included the development of 1,200 existing homes, the provision of

social and health services and the establishment of a vocational training centre in the area, according to the spokesman.

The UDD project in Marka was opened by the Queen in November 1985, and the Ruseifa project in September 1987. The first project's total cost reached JD 31 million, the spokesman noted.

In the light of the success of the first project, the government instructed the UDD to implement second and third projects.

The second project carried out near Ruseifa, Zarqa and Qweismeh entailed building 3,500 housing units for the benefit of nearly 25,000 people, in addition to improving 200 homes in the Prince Hassan district of Marka. The spokesman said the second project's total cost amounted to JD 36 million.

The UDD has completed studies on implementing the third project in the Salahuddin district and two smaller districts in Aqaba, according to the spokesman.

UNESCO meeting to tackle primary education, eradication of illiteracy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The eradication of illiteracy will be among three main subjects tackled by a two-day meeting opening here Wednesday under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Delegates from Jordan, Sudan, Syria, Morocco, Egypt, North Yemen and specialists from UNESCO and the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) will take part in the meeting at the UNESCO regional office.

A UNESCO spokesman said that two other subjects — generalising education and improving primary education — will also be discussed at the meeting.

According to the spokesman, the delegates will review working papers from the UNESCO office on primary education and illiteracy, and a report on various Arab countries' experiments in these fields.

In addition, he said the meeting would focus on regional cooperation and coordination with UNESCO in implementing educational programmes.

The resolutions and recommendations will be submitted to a general meeting of UNESCO specialists later in the year, the spokesman added.

Irbid eradicating illiteracy

The department of education in Irbid Governorate last year

opened 57 literacy and adult education centres, through which 57 teachers now provide education to 855 people. The centres are located in Irbid and neighbouring villages and towns, according to Education Department Director Mohammad Bani Hani.

He said that the department was sending teams to visit classes

and with teachers and students. The department of education also offers the students books and stationary free of charge, according to Bani Hani.

In a statement marking Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy, the ministry said that the illiteracy rate in Jordan had dropped to 26 per cent from 67 per cent in 1961.

Cold, rain and heavy gusts expected

AMMAN (Petra) — An atmospheric depression moving eastwards from southern Greece should affect Jordan today, according to director of the Department of Meteorology Ali Abanda.

Abanda said that the depression would be accompanied by a cold front and heavy clouds, bringing rain and heavy gusts to most parts of the country.

Meanwhile, it was announced that the Department of Meteorology will take part in the ninth meeting of the World Meteorological Organisation due to convene in Geneva Monday.

During the 10-day meeting, the council will discuss among many topics, the prospect of establishing satellite contacts between meteorology centres in Amman and West Germany.

Work on museum underway

IRBID (Petra) — The Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University is currently constructing a modern museum to house artefacts unearthed in Jordan, according to the Institute Director Mu'awiah Ibrahim.

Ibrahim said that the museum project is being implemented in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and the West German government.

The museum will display artefacts and antiquities found in

Jordan, dating back to various eras and reflecting the region's history and culture, according to Mu'awiah.

At present, the institute supervises 20 different archaeological sites in Jordan. Mu'awiah noted. He said that many of these projects are supported by the Jordan Valley Authority, the Department of Antiquities, the Department of Lands and Survey and the municipalities where the sites are located.

Dr. Herwig Bartels shares insights into artistry, history of Anatolian rugs



West German Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Herwig Bartels with one of his Anatolian kilims, at his home in Amman.

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At first glance, it might seem unusual for an American archaeological research centre in an Arab capital to sponsor a slide lecture by a German diplomat-scholar about carpets and related archaeological evidence.

Yet this is precisely what takes place this Tuesday evening (Jan. 26, 8:00 p.m.) at the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, when West German Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Herwig Bartels lectures on "Anatolian flat weaves and related archaeological evidence" — promising to shed fascinating new light on universal and timeless processes of religion and art that transcend barriers of time, place and national identity.

The lecture should appeal to a broad range of people interested

in history, archaeology, art history, crafts, religion and related fields, for Bartels' research touches on all these subjects — showing how an indigenous, localised artistic rendering of religious beliefs in Anatolia some 8,000 years ago was faithfully preserved while radiating outward to influence arts and crafts traditions in other parts of the Near East.

His lecture will start with a definition of the Anatolian flat-woven kilims (as opposed to knotted-pile rugs), and a review of the kilim-weaving people and tradition in the Anatolian Peninsula (modern Turkey). He will show slides of kilims from his collection of over 100 antique pieces dating from the 17th to early 19th centuries, the single largest collection of its kind in the world.

He will then show the technical

and stylistic differences between kilims and other Near Eastern rug-weaving traditions, such as the woolen rugs of Jordan, and discuss his original but now increasingly accepted thesis: that "the tremendous diversity in woven rug designs in the ancient and contemporary Near East often can be traced back to a single ancient artistic tradition in Anatolia" — a tradition, he will show, which dates back nearly 8,000 years, to Neolithic Era villagers.

For the past decade of collecting kilims, Bartels has been uncomfortable with the heretofore predominant theory that the kilim rug-weaving tradition was brought to Turkey by the Turkoman migrations from Central Asia starting in the 11th century A.D. His research on the design motifs of Anatolian kilims, compiled with comparative studies of other Near Eastern rug-weaving

traditions and recent archaeological evidence from Turkey, has convinced him that ancient Anatolia was the single common source of this tradition. Indigenous Anatolian designs radiated outward to influence other regional artistic traditions, including those in Jordan, Persia, Mesopotamia and other lands in the area.

The most dramatic evidence Bartels will show is the astounding similarity between designs/motifs on 17th-19th century kilims and on wall paintings discovered at the Anatolian Neolithic village excavated by James Mellaart at Catal Huyuk — separated by a time span of nearly 8,000 years. He believes the Catal Huyuk wall paintings, dating from 5700-5400 B.C., included cultic representations, theological concepts and religious symbolism that have endured, in kilims and other art forms, until this century.

The religious symbolism of the Neolithic people — the world's first permanently settled villagers, who lived by cultivated agriculture and animal domestication — seems to have been passed on from generation to generation.

"The people retained techniques and designs which they received from their elders, and the religious and artistic traditions were faithfully preserved for thousands of years," Bartels told the Jordan Times in an interview here this week. "The women weavers, with obvious reverence for the work at hand, tried to do their best and to produce masterworks worthy of the importance of the religious traditions they revered."

The result, he says, is that many, though not all, kilims were

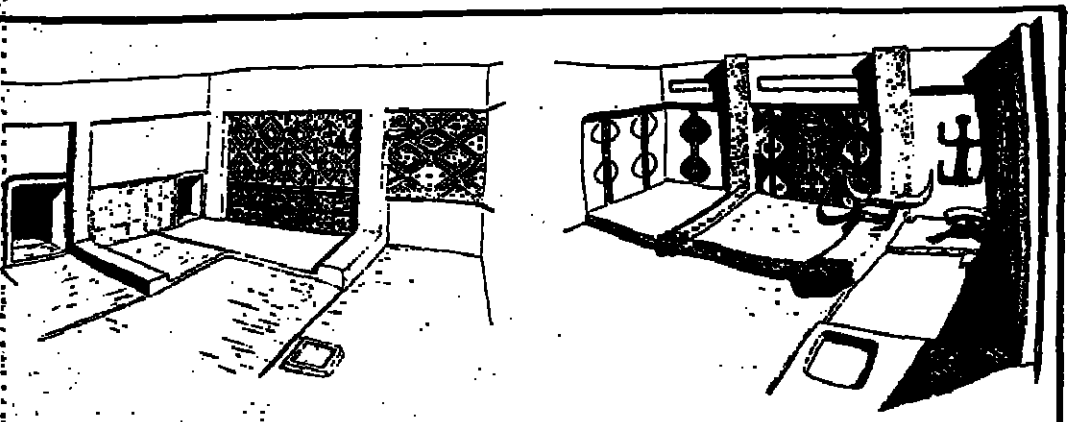
masterpieces of art, exhibiting both master craftsmanship and aesthetic decorative design.

Decorative patterns on 3,000-year-old Middle Bronze Age pots from Anatolia, as well as some of the motifs from the Catal Huyuk paintings and the more recent kilims, can also be seen in other Near Eastern art, including examples in Jordan. Other artistic impulses worked their way through Sassanian, Byzantine and Islamic cultures. Heart-shaped patterns in the Qasr 'Amra wall frescoes, floral and geometric motifs in Byzantine mosaics from Jordan and geometric forms on modern Jordanian woven rugs can all be traced back to clear parallels — or prototypes — in the Catal Huyuk paintings or share the iconography of Anatolian flat weaves and pile rugs.

Bartels will suggest that some of the artistic influences in the land of Jordan and other areas of the Near East that have heretofore been traced to Sassanian or Byzantine culture may, in fact, be traced back even further — to their original source in Anatolia.

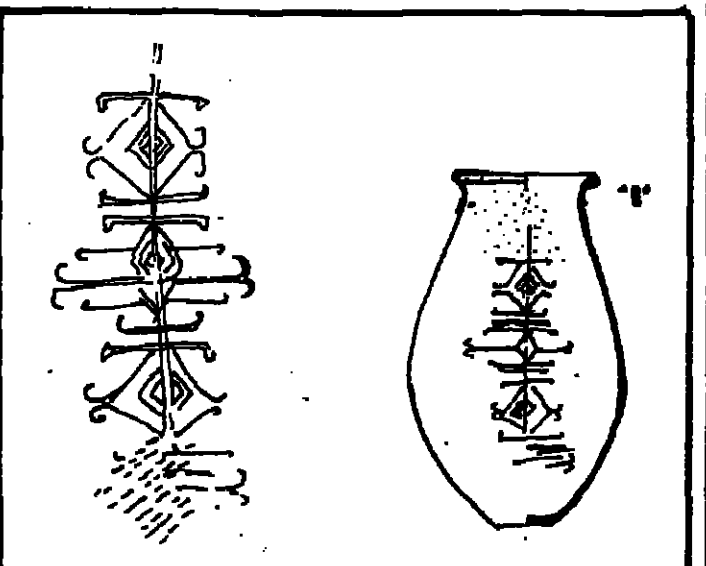
The kilims, like Palestinian and Jordanian embroidery and dresses, can be associated with individual regions and nomadic tribes in Anatolia, according to each kilim's colours, weaving technique and design motifs.

Bartels will show some slides of the Catal Huyuk wall paintings, which have not been published to date, and will also display some of the kilims in his personal collection. The lecture, in English, takes place, Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 8:00 p.m. at ACOR (not at 7:00 p.m. as was mistakenly publicised in a recent archaeology newsletter).



Artist's drawings of rooms at Catal Huyuk, with their original wall paintings dating from 5700-5400 B.C. Some of the motifs in the wall paintings are

still used today in Anatolian kilims and other Near Eastern crafts patterns.



The design on a Middle Bronze Age (circa 1900 B.C.) ceramic jar excavated in Turkey (right) is faithfully retained in a pattern on an Anatolian kilim produced nearly 4,000 years later.

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Time for the big push

TIME has never been riper for the Arabs to launch a concerted effort for a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories has brought about a new international awareness of the need to address the basic problem in the Middle East, reflected in United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's statement Friday urging the world powers to seek a negotiated Arab-Israeli settlement as the only means to protect the Palestinians living under Israeli rule.

On the Arab side, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is reportedly planning to propose a six-month moratorium on violence and a freeze on Israeli settlement of the occupied territories. Cracks have become more pronounced in Israel's Likud bloc over the hardline policy against granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights, and these cracks could be used to Arab advantage to bring about a climate conducive to an international peace conference under U.N. auspices.

For its part, Moscow has formally asked the Security Council to set up an international conference and suggested a meeting at foreign minister level of the five permanent members of the council to pave the way for the proposed forum. One can only hope that the Soviet move to receive an official Israeli delegation in Moscow is the forerunner of a Kremlin strategy designed to tell Israel that the Soviet Union is keen to promote Arab-Israeli peace, and that diplomatic relations could be resumed only when a comprehensive settlement has been reached in the Middle East.

Against this backdrop of international outcry and world pressure on Israel to seek a just and durable settlement with the Arabs, the most logical Arab move is to make the Arab view loud and clear. The Tunis meeting of Arab foreign ministers offers just the forum to crystallise an all-embracing and firm Arab strategy to be presented to the Security Council, which Monday begins deliberations on Perez de Cuellar's report.

The Arab delegates gathered in Tunis cannot afford to let down the hopes of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as outside Palestine. The door should be opened for sure-footed moves in the international arena, while all available means should be adopted to advance the Palestinian struggle and revolt.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan welcomes Soviet proposal

JORDAN has welcomed and expressed support for a Soviet proposal calling for a U.N. Security Council meeting at the foreign minister level to pave the way for an international conference on the Middle East. Jordan backs efforts enabling the Security Council and the international community to shoulder this responsibility which would bring about a just and durable peace to the area and end the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is clear that the Soviet proposal is in harmony with the collective Arab stand reached at the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November, and therefore Jordan's support for the Soviet move is tantamount to a pan-Arab backing for Moscow's initiative. Moscow has made it clear that the proposed conference should be fully authorised to play a decisive role in bringing about peace and not a mere protocol for bringing the parties together as Israel's foreign minister is advocating. The Soviet proposal means that the American negative stand is unjustified specially in view of the on-going uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza and in the light of an overwhelming world support for the conference. The Arab countries appreciate Moscow's positive stand; and at the same time they view with reservation the forthcoming tour of the Middle East region by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy. These countries wonder how this tour could contribute towards giving momentum to the peace process as long as the U.S. official stand with regard to the peace conference remains unchanged. It should be said that the present U.S. policy in our region will never be able to impede the march of peace as long as the Arab people continue the struggle, through their uprising, seeking to regain their rights and their freedom.

Al Dustour: Show of solidarity

THE huge demonstration staged in occupied Nazareth in support of the Arab people's struggle in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip marked a new development in the continued endeavour by Arabs to regain their rights. The rally in this town, occupied since 1948, reflected the strong brotherly ties its inhabitants maintain with their brothers and their deep nationalistic feeling despite 40 years of occupation. This rally was a manifestation of the cohesion among the Palestinian people wherever they are in the occupied territory. In a further show of support for the uprising of the Arab people under Israeli rule, Arab member of the Knesset Mohammad Darawseh announced his resignation from the Israeli Labour Party, a move instantly welcomed by the cheering crowds of Nazareth. This whole-hearted support for the uprising, the cohesion among the Palestinians and the solidarity among various sectors of Arab people represent another serious challenge for the Israeli government, and a setback for its plans. As the rally was being held, further anti-Israeli protests were staged in other parts of the occupied Arab land and a fresh round of diplomatic activity, on the part of the United Nations and the Arab League, is being initiated. This can only increase the pressure on the Israeli leaders to accept the concept of durable and just peace through an international conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Decisive meeting

THE Arab League has opened an emergency session in Tunis at the foreign minister level to discuss the events in the occupied Arab territories and means of confronting the Israeli challenge. The meeting is being held at a crucial time for all the Arabs, when the Israeli atrocities and repressive measures are being condemned by all world organisations and peace loving nations. As the Arab League ministers met, there were fresh calls world wide for convening an international peace conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about peace to the region. The world is witnessing the Palestinian people's uprising and also watching the Israeli repressive measures with deep concern specially as Israeli leaders continue to ignore calls for peace which the Arabs want in exchange for land. It is hoped that the Arab countries will work at the Arab League in the same spirit that prevailed at the extraordinary Arab summit last November, and it is hoped that world nations will heed Moscow's call for convening the proposed international conference to establish peace in our region.

A genuine call for peace or a political stunt?

By Waleed Sadi

SHIMON Peres, the Israeli foreign minister and leader of the Labour Party would have us believe that he and his party are devout champions of peace by means of the international conference idea. But when Peres was recently asked by an Israeli reporter as to why he persisted in pressing for the international peace conference when he knew damn well that it was not really in the cards, he replied that he called for it exactly because it was unattainable! This leads us to a follow-up question: Was Shimon Peres satirical, cynical or down right honest when he replied to the question in the manner he did. Or worst still, was Peres using the conference idea as some kind of ploy or decoy for political gains. To shed more light on the political psychology of Shimon Peres, one has to go a step or two backward in the political history of Israel. For it is recorded in Israeli political chronicles that Peres was a political disciple of no other than the late Moshe Dayan, the Israeli minister of defence till 1981 and chief of staff in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It is also recorded that General Dayan, the mentor of Peres, was in turn the disciple of the so-called "Palestinian option," as an avenue to resolve the Palestinian case. In this context, it is valuable to recall that in the last days of his life, General Dayan explored methodically through his military staff the issue of the viable borderline to which the Israeli troops can withdraw in the event of a peace agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The findings and conclusion of General Dayan and company are now well embodied in Israeli military chronicles and they allege that there is no such thing as safe, secure and viable borders to which the Israeli occupying troops can withdraw. Translated to more down to earth language, Dayan's pessimistic conclusion meant that the geographic area of original Palestine is

indivisible at least militarily. So much for General Dayan and his pupils the like of Peres.

On the other side of the political spectrum of the Labour Party, sat the late General Alon and now sits General Yitzhak Rabin, the current Israeli minister of defence. This second school of thought was and still is reputed to have opted for the so-called "Jordanian option". Like its sister the "Palestinian option," the so-called "Jordanian option" has yet to be defined in exact terms beyond the vague protestations that Israel prefers to deal directly with Jordan and would forego all others in any projected peace negotiations that could ensue at the end of the line of any preparatory arrangements leading to any such negotiations.

What complicates the picture even more is the persistent revelations that Peres and Rabin and their respective constituencies are not really on good terms and do not see eye to eye on many outstanding war and peace issues. For example, Rabin says very little in support of the conference idea. The divisions within the Labour Party has in fact widened to such extents that many observers have begun to describe the party as nothing more than a "coalition party" made up of diverse views and perspectives which often appear to be so conflicting with one another and so difficult to reconcile. So much for the united stand of the Labour Party on the issue of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East to deal with the Palestinian case as well as with the overall Arab-Israeli conflict. This absence of political cohesion among the pillars of the Labour Party has been exacerbated of late by the veiled threat issued by Peres to the effect that if there is no international peace conference then Israel has to forego Jordan as a

principal interlocutor in any indirect negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab parties and head for, instead, to direct negotiations with the PLO. One still wonders to whom such a threat is directed or whether it is just another ploy by Peres to sow more division in the Arab ranks and realise a more divided Arab house. To be sure neither the Israeli Labour Party nor the Likud Party would float decoys or exploit ploys without a particular strategy in mind. The Arab side can bet its last currency denominator that Israeli "divisions" are nothing more than tactical in the final analysis. That is much more than what one can say about Arab divisions which appear to be more and more strategic. And whereas one can look forward to the next Israeli national elections to discern the true colour of the various Israeli political players, Peres included, the Arab side has yet to devise a mechanism to cultivate a clearer and a bit more synchronised roles for the respective Arab parties concerned with the Palestinian case as well as with the Arab-Israeli umbrella conflict. And while the Israelis can ill afford fundamental divisions on the issues of war and peace in the Middle East, any Arab division can be fatal. This leads me to the conclusion that a mini Arab summit on the level of the parties most directly concerned is a must lest the Arab World lose what they can gain in the projected international peace conference. The physical manifestations of the on-going Palestinian revolution will ultimately subside and our people there are entitled to help to translate their uprising into tangible political gains. Otherwise, the performances of the last month and half are bound to be repeated till the message soaks in and the Arab and Israeli leaders manifest a deeper understanding of the lessons to be learned from these cries for an end to Israeli occupation.

Arabs pledge support for revolt

(Continued from page 1)

Masri told Petra the meeting also entrusted the Arab League secretariat to monitor Israel's violations of human rights and its war crimes in the occupied territories and to report them to the U.N. secretary general to be distributed as an official U.N. document.

Most of the decisions contained in the final statement were proposed by Jordan in a speech delivered by Masri Saturday. In the speech, Masri said the current uprising in the West Bank and Gaza was the natural result of Israel's oppressive practices against the Palestinians living there. "The sacrifices and the continued revolt have won the Palestinians admiration and support of the whole world, which has also come to realise the real nature of Israel's plans to Judaize Arab lands," Masri said.

"A strong Arab stand and effective diplomatic moves have become incumbent on the Arab Nation if it wants the Israelis to succumb to the will of the international community and if the Arabs want to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people," the minister said.

Jordan, he said, proposes that diplomatic moves should be based on the following:

— An all-out Arab diplomatic offensive at the United Nations to canvass further support for the Palestinian uprising and to win support for a just and durable peace through an international conference to be held under U.N. auspices. This view, which was adopted by the Arab leaders at their extraordinary summit held in Amman last November, called for the participation of all concerned parties in the proposed conference to achieve a durable peace and ensure the Palestinian people's rights, Masri noted.

Jordan proposes the creation of a pan-Arab working team at the foreign ministers level to maintain contacts with U.N. Security Council members to pave the way for the conference, he said.

— Intensive contacts with world governments in general, and the European countries in particular, to apply political, and economic pressure on Israel to force it to abide by the Geneva convention of 1949.

— Material and political support for the Palestinians to enhance their uprising in the face of Israel's practices. In this respect, Jordan welcomes and supports a Soviet proposal for a U.N. Security Council meeting at the foreign ministers level to prepare for the proposed international conference, Masri said.

Analysts predict bloodier protests

(Continued from page 1)

onlooker but should give immediate response to what is happening to the inhabitants." The PLO should intensify campaigns against Israel by protesting to worldwide journalist unions to send more journalists to Israel and force Israel to open the refugee camps and by inviting international jurists and human rights societies to attend the mock trials and members of international labour unions to witness the conditions of the Palestinian labourers, he said.

According to a member of the PLO executive committee, Mohammad Milhem, the PLO and the Arab League have formed a follow-up team to coordinate with Arab states and U.N. institutions and with activists at large. "We are trying to get U.N. protection for our people, arrange medical supplies through UNRWA and Red Cross, work with Arab states to pay their financial commitment to the PLO and contact Eastern and Western countries to put pressure on Israel and reactivating our information centres to ensure that right information reaches all corners of the world," Milhem said.

"Societies and committees have been set up to help the needy, and wounded, labourers and refugees get the medical supplies and food they need," he said. In Kuwait, everyone paid a day's salary for the Palestinian uprising, and in Qatar the same policy was followed. About JD 30,000 has been contributed by the General Union of Voluntary Societies of Jordan, he said.

'Green line' support

The Palestinians inside the "green line" have also collecting donations, said Saleh. Their participation in the uprising has shown the world that the Palestinians in the 1967 and 1948 lands are one people. "They are regaining their national identity which was oppressed and considered lost," he said. He stated that despite the fact that the Palestinians behind the "green line" are considered Israeli citizens and are under the emergency regulations of 1945 which were imposed during the British mandate period, demonstrations and strikes they held showed their commitment to the uprising. Areas which have known no resistance are now actively showing their nationalism, said Saleh citing the example of Jaffa where the Arab population of 3,000 held demonstrations.

The best pressure comes from the continued Palestinian uprising, witnessed and supported by the Arab World and international community, agreed the analysts. "It will show that there will be no peace or stability until a solution is found," said Milhem.

Political observers expect that even if the Palestinians are not successful in sending the message that the occupation must end, U.N. resolutions implemented, PLO recognised and the Palestinians' right to self-determination granted, there will be more rounds of violence.

"The ground has been tested and the barrier of fear of the 'mighty' has been broken," Abu Jaber said. Even though there have been deaths, the Palestinians are not losing, he said.

Masareh noted: "The Palestinians are not afraid to die because they have nothing to lose and because of the deaths the millions of Palestinians are gaining."

Even hunger will not stop the uprisings from continuing, Masareh says. He points out that the occupation has always sought from the beginning to give enough daily bread, but not to create a healthy population. "Now they are threatening Palestinian's daily bread, but our people are used to being hungry and they can find ways to manage."

Noting that Palestinians were able to withstand a six-month siege of Palestinian camps in Lebanon, he said: "They will suffer, but they will find ways to survive and force the world, UNRWA and the Red Cross to supply them with food," he said.

However, Saleh said that the world can expect the next rounds of violence to be bloodier, because the young people will become more radical and uncontrollable. "Expect the worse with the failure of this uprising. Failure will further radicalise the population, and the new force won't be controlled by anyone. The young people have reached the stage of taking the revolution into their own hands," he said, pointing to the challenge the Palestinians pose to the Israelis when whole populations demonstrate under curfew.

"It's political dynamite on both sides, and I expect the violence to continue until a political proposal emerges," concluded Abdul Rahman.

Tunisian by-elections — a real test for Ibn Ali

From Lamis K. Andoni in Tunis

TUNISIAN parliamentary by-elections, held Sunday were viewed by both the government and opposition here as the first real test for the new era of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali who took over in a bloodless coup last November, according to analysts here.

The by-elections were to vacant seats in parliament of five deputies who were dismissed by Ibn Ali for corruption and exerting "negative influence" on the former president, Habib Bourguiba. The deputies were very close to Bourguiba and were believed to have used the 84-year-old man's senility to control the country's affairs.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Although the results of the by-elections are not expected to bring about a fundamental change in the country's 236-member legislative institution, it will put to test Ibn Ali's vows to allow freedom of political parties, to enhance pluralism and his reformist drive within his own ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD).

People here still remember with bitterness the last general elections in 1986 when members of the PSD, which led the country to independence in 1957, publicly rigged the results by changing ballot boxes.

Furthermore, leaders of the opposition were either banned from running in the elections or their moves were restricted by security measures which prevented them from participating. Following the Nov. 7 movement, as the coup is referred to here, Ibn Ali lifted the ban on opposition personalities and allowed all parties, except for the Islamic Tendency Movement (MIT), to take part in the by-elections. But only the Communist Party, the oldest political group in the country, and a number of independent candidates have agreed to participate. The other leftist groups, including the strong Democratic Socialist Movement (DSM), have kept to their condition that the present parliament should be dissolved and new general elections be held.

According to the opposition's view, Ibn Ali's drive to allow more political freedoms would

not be possible if the present institutions, which are run by influential constitutionalists from the Bourguiba era, are not subjected to fundamental changes. But both the DSM and the Communist Party, which strongly support Ibn Ali's leadership agree that the by-elections will test the president's ability and power to ensure a decent elections process.

So far, the opposition seems satisfied with the changes brought about by Ibn Ali since the former prime minister took the decisive move of putting an end to the 30-year undisputed reign of Bourguiba.

The government has lifted restrictions of freedom of the press, allowed the publishing of opposition newspapers and conceded to the opposition's demand that a committee be formed to formulate new laws which regulate political parties' activities. Although Tunisia's constitution allows the formation of political parties, the old regime had invoked an emergency law, imposed by the country's former colonial rulers, which allows the Interior Ministry to permit or ban political parties and to intervene in their affairs.

The new draft law is now being discussed by the government and the opposition, and according to the latter's leaders the main demand is to cancel the stipulation for prior interior ministry permission to allow the formation of political parties.

But the government has not accepted the opposition's demand for new general elections, which are not scheduled to take place before 1991. According to well-informed analysts and sources close to the government, conservative elements within the PSD are resenting such a step for fear that it will undermine the party's control on the country's political life and institutions.

Old guards unenthusiastic

The old conservative guards, who still maintain sensitive key positions in the party as well as in the government and local administration, are also not very enthusiastic about Ibn Ali's reformist measures to reconstruct the party's political and organisational structure. According to analysts, although the PSD has been in power since the country's independence its heavy reliance on the government's institutions



Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

and power has undermined its organisational structure. While its image has been tarnished by the arbitrary measures practised by the former president to curb political freedoms and its name has become closely associated with corruption.

Reforms to strengthen the party and polish its image have become more relevant, especially following its loss in a municipal election last month in Qasr Hilal, a town which had so far been a traditional stronghold for the constitutionalists.

In an attempt to strengthen the party, Ibn Ali has chosen respect-

able personalities as members of a new highly-powered Reorientation Committee to supervise the constitutionalists' political and organisational activities, and a Youth Committee to recruit fresh and young elements to the party.

The president has even taken the unprecedented step of choosing an independent to represent the party in the by-elections for the capital's seat. But as the by-elections campaign has indicated so far the old guards have maintained control of the party. In many areas in central Tunis, the PSD's pink campaign posters have been stuck over the blue posters of the Communist Party. In their campaign leaflets, the constitutionalists are claiming that the "correction movement" led by their party in a bid to try to use the popular support for a political change in favour of the party.

Outside the capital where there is no real distinction between the government and the ruling party, independent and communist candidates charged that constitutionalists were using the power of the local administration to block opposition campaigns. But according to opposition sources, in the cases where the candidates made official complaints the president himself intervened and put a stop to such practices by some constitutionalists.

While the world sleeps

Last night a mother cried
For her sixteen year old son died
By no fault of his own
In the Israeli occupied zone

The bitterness has turned to hatred
And the hatred to bloodshed
What more can be said

"Thirty-two more Palestinians dead."
An announcement by VOA while I listen in bed

But I cannot sleep
For my feelings run deep
I hear the mother weeping
While most of the world lies sleeping

Her tears will soon run dry
For her pain will mask her cry
How empty her heart must be
As it throbs in Gaza by the sea
Mourning the missing youth and her own destiny.

Peggie Fuad Abujaiber

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مكتبة ابن خلدون

World's first AIDS summit attracts 145 countries

By Robert Glass
The Associated Press

LONDON — Health policy-makers from 145 countries gather in London this week for the first world AIDS summit in an attempt to mount a global assault on the epidemic.

The three-day conference, which opens Tuesday, will be the largest meeting of government ministers ever held on a single health problem, according to the World Health Organisation. WHO is co-sponsoring the event with the British government.

"The conference, we believe, is going to mark another critical turning point in the global mobilisation against AIDS," Dr. Jonathan Mann, the American director of WHO's AIDS programme, said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Health ministers from 131 countries and government advisers from 14 others have registered for the world summit of ministers of health on programmes for AIDS prevention.

The queen's daughter, Princess Anne, is to deliver the summit's

opening speech Tuesday at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

Unlike conferences among medical experts working on vaccines and treatments, this summit deals mainly with government efforts to control the disease.

Summit goals are to present WHO's guidelines for AIDS prevention and control, to update the global impact of AIDS, to review policies for slowing the spread of AIDS with emphasis on public-education campaigns.

Since AIDS was first identified among male homosexuals in Los Angeles in 1981, the disease has spread throughout the world, with the number of reported cases doubling roughly every year.

The Geneva, Switzerland-based WHO had recorded 75,392 AIDS cases in 130 countries as of Jan. 12. But WHO estimates the actual worldwide toll is double that because many cases have not been reported, particularly in Africa.

The United States leads the world with 51,361 confirmed cases of AIDS as of Jan. 18. Of

that, 28,683 people died.

In addition to confirmed cases, WHO estimates there are 5 million to 10 million carriers of the AIDS virus. An estimated 15 to 20 per cent of carriers develop the disease.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome destroys the body's natural immunity to disease, leaving victims defenseless against many infections and cancers. There is no known vaccine or cure for the fatal disorder.

AIDS most often is spread through sexual contact. Other known means of transmission include transmission of contaminated blood and blood products, sharing of contaminated needles by drug abusers, and from pregnant mothers to their unborn children.

In the United States and Europe, AIDS remains largely confined to male homosexuals and intravenous drug users. But in Africa it has been shown to be a heterosexual disease. One study of prostitutes in Africa found that 88 per cent of women examined had been exposed to the virus. Alarm over the spread of

AIDS has created pressure on governments for screening to protect the uninfected population. Most governments have concentrated prevention efforts on health education and screening of donor blood and organs. But some compulsory programmes are beginning to show up.

Belgium, for example, now requires foreign students, mostly from Africa, to undergo blood tests for AIDS. The conservative West German state of Bavaria requires screening of all homosexuals, prostitutes, inmates, applicants for public-service jobs and non-European foreigners seeking residency.

The U.S. government has outlined plans for mandatory testing of immigrants and federal prisoners.

Mandatory programmes aimed at specific groups have prompted complaints of discrimination and invasion of privacy, and gay-rights activists plan large-scale rallies to publicise their concerns during the summit.

WHO's broad strategy calls for slowing the "spread of AIDS

worldwide by attacking every mode of transmission in every country, using every scientific and educational tool available."

The organisation recommends mandatory screening for detecting the AIDS virus in donor blood, blood products, organs and semen used for artificial insemination.

"Essentially, we believe that AIDS prevention and control can be effectively and efficiently carried out without threatening human rights," Mann said. "If discrimination is allowed to occur, or if practices and policies develop that create a discriminatory environment against people who are infected or against people who practise certain behaviours, then we can assure that the programme will not be effective in fighting AIDS."

During the summit, Britain's £20-million (\$36 million) programme, which combines heavy media coverage with voluntary screening and the provision of free needles to drug abusers, is expected to be used as a model for the rest of the world.

Since the campaign began in November 1986, the Department of Health and Social Security has produced studies showing a significant rise in public awareness of the disease and ways to avoid it.

However, independent polls have shown no evidence of a change in sexual behaviour among Britain's heterosexual population, the campaign's prime target. Critics also have complained that the media blitz has caused some panic, jamming AIDS treatment centres with thousands of "worried well" seeking blood tests.

Nevertheless, Mann said the best hope of slowing the global spread of AIDS is for governments to educate the public and provide such services as blood-testing and free needles for drug abusers.

"There's no question that the spread of AIDS... can be slowed, and can be slowed substantially through a coordinated programme that includes education and information, specific health and social services and a supportive environment," he said.

Randa Habib's
Corner

A question of E

WE Jordanians have terrible eating habits. We eat too much, exercise very little and for some absurd reason, complain about weight problems. Many of us spend hours on a meal with different dishes, the name of some I cannot spell. Then afterwards, we are so full that we are too lazy to do anything, much less exercise. The old saying "I am in no shape to exercise," fits us perfectly.

The majority of us return home, have a heavy lunch then take a siesta. When it comes to exercise, forget it. The only exercise we sometimes are forced to do is to go up and down the stairs after getting off our cars. And here, this opportunity is available only to those who live in apartment buildings. This, doctors say, is very bad for your health.

One interesting example of our laziness and refusal to do any exercise no matter how minimal is that we always insist on parking our cars so close to where we are going so as not to walk: few metres. Many of us even block buildings' entrances with their cars. Cutting the distance five metres somehow gives us a strange sense of satisfaction and a peculiar feeling of achievement. This doctors say, is also bad for you.

When we find ourselves in an office building and want to go up one flight of stairs, we insist on taking the elevator. Are we still wondering why we have an obesity problem?

Although there are some encouraging signs, you see very few Jordanians jogging in the streets. It seems that we, Jordanians, have a dislike for physical exertion. Whether it is because we enjoy easy living or because we are intellectuals who prefer to do the thinking part and let others do the walking, is open for debate. But one thing is sure, there is a problem of attitude that needs to be examined.

Not so long ago, when there were hardly any cars in Jordan, people used to walk long distances. Some even used to travel from one village to the other on foot. This tells us that laziness is not an inherent characteristic of Jordanians. And if it is not something we inherited from other cultures (which I very much doubt), then what is behind our attitude? Whatever the reason, we must find a solution. And the only solution I can think of is to force ourselves to exercise one way or the other. In fact, I am personally going to start immediately. I will go right now, put on my jogging suit, and exercise... my options.

Nablu protesters clash with troops

(Continued from page 1)

Asked whether he thought the policies were too tough, Peres said: "It's not a question of the policies being too tough but that they are being applied too hastily."

Labour's most prominent Arab member of parliament, Abdul Wahab Darawshe, announced Saturday he was resigning from the party over Rabin's policies and called Rabin a murderer on Israel Radio.

Peres-Mubarak contacts

Israeli politicians remained divided over how to deal with the Palestinian protests.

Peres Sunday repeated his call for an international Middle East peace conference amid widespread reports that a senior Peres aide secretly met an Egyptian official over the weekend.

Local radio and newspapers said foreign ministry director Avraham Tamir met Osama Al Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in

France or Switzerland for talks on the latest Egyptian proposals.

Egypt has repeatedly criticised Israel's handling of the demonstrations and has called for Israelis and Palestinians to halt violence for six months while preparations are made for an international conference.

Israeli spokesman refused to comment on the reports, but political sources said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who heads the right-wing Likud bloc, was angry that he was not informed of Tamir's mission.

Tens of thousands of Arabs and Israelis turned out for a pair of rallies Saturday.

In what was termed the largest demonstration ever by Israelis against their government's policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, at least 50,000 people carrying torches thronged through Tel Aviv Saturday.

In Nazareth, about 30,000 Arabs from villages throughout Israel gathered to demand the Israeli army leave the territories.

UNRWA's 'seed money' programme taking root

AN UNRWA programme to help needy refugees become self-supporting by giving them "seed money" for their own enterprises is beginning to take root.

The programme began in 1983 with 12 self-support projects. Now there are more than 100 projects and some of the refugees running them have been taken off UNRWA's welfare rolls because they no longer need financial help.

With cash grants from UNRWA, individual Palestine refugees have opened up small businesses such as a butcher shop and a kiosk selling stationery and sweets. Other refugees with special skills have opened up workshops to produce shoes, make neon signs or patch tires.

In 1986, with "seed money" of \$2,000 Mohammad Said Zu'bi established himself as a tinsmith in Irbid, Jordan, enabling him to provide a better life for his family of eight. A similar grant helped Mohammad Ahmad Sharaif, head of a family of 10 to set up a brickmaking factory in Irbid. Thanks to a \$7,353 UNRWA grant and assistance from several charitable societies in the Nablu area, West Bank, Safwat Khalil Ismail, the sole breadwinner for 11, was able to build and stock a secondhand clothing store adjacent to his shelter. An input of \$5,000 enabled Mohammad Atefeh Joudah to expand and diversify the range of goods available at his grocery shop at Nuseirat Camp, Gaza, increasing his income to about \$600 a month, which is three times over the welfare threshold for a family of 10.

Today, most of these Palestine refugees are no longer on the Agency's welfare rolls. Their stories are all the more

remarkable because these refugees used to be among the Special Hardship Cases (SHC) which make up five per cent of the Refugee community. In September 1987, some 30,000 families of 121,912 persons were registered with the Agency as hardship cases and as such were eligible for limited welfare help and food rations. In contrast, the majority of the 2.2 million registered refugees are largely self-supporting, receiving only education and health services from UNRWA.

The SHC group includes individuals who are unable to seek employment due to a physical disability or personal circumstances: The aged, the disabled, widows and orphans and the chronically ill. Marwan, the tailor, is deaf and dumb; Mohammad, the tinsmith, is chronically ill; Safwat, the second-hand clothing vendor, is paralysed in his left leg. Despite their individual disabilities, UNRWA gave them the means to help themselves but only through their own hard work and determination: have they succeeded. Often earnings increased only very gradually as sharp inflation eroded customers' buying power.

Shattered hopes in Lebanon

Lebanon is the only UNRWA field where the self-support programme suffered setbacks due to security disturbances. Since May 1985, fighting around refugee camps in Lebanon has claimed many lives and caused much destruction. The fighting has shattered hopes for self-help projects underway in the Tyre and Beirut areas. The tragic saga was always the same: Projects got off to a good start, earnings were at a

good level, then the next report showed that shops and homes were partially or completely destroyed in the fighting and refugees displaced. In some camps the Agency was unable to obtain any news about projects, due to the emergency situation.

Kamal Haj Musa's self support project is a typical example. Kamal, though paralysed, was very enthusiastic about opening a tinsmith shop at Shatila camp in Beirut. UNRWA provided him with "seed money" of \$900. In February 1985, the project was running smoothly. However, during fighting in May and June, his house and shop were damaged. Due to sporadic fighting, Kamal began restlessly shifting between Shatila and Rashidieh camp near Tyre. Finally, he took up residence in Rashidieh. After moving all retrievable project equipment to Rashidieh camp, Kamal started up his project for a second time. Unfortunately, fighting resumed in the south and Rashidieh has been cut off from the outside world for months.

Extremely high inflation is another obstacle to project success in Lebanon. In 1983, it took about four Lebanese pounds to buy \$1. In late 1987, it took over 500 Lebanese pounds. Despite repeated frustrations and economic problems, welfare staff again started up carefully selected new projects but only in areas not affected by fighting.

Keys to success

In the other fields of the Agency's area of operation, Gaza, West Bank, Jordan and Syria, great care is taken to avoid unnecessary risks of failure. Only a few projects have failed — most

of them because the refugees involved had fallen sick or died.

Mr. Bernard Mossaz, Chief Relief Services Division says the programme has a high success rate because the projects UNRWA backs were chosen and monitored carefully. Self-support projects are also adequately capitalised to ensure a livelihood or income supplement for refugees with potential for success.

However, Mr. Mossaz cautions, a 100 per cent success rate is not possible since the projects involve destitute refugees with disabilities or difficult personal circumstances.

An outside consultant, John McKenzie reported in 1985, based on his first-hand experiences in Gaza and the West Bank, that the majority of SHC refugees are not able to engage in self-supporting jobs due to their disabilities. However, he added that on the Agency's rolls "there are bound to be a certain, even if a small, number of people capable of helping themselves. These will be people who have previously had trades and skills but who have had to rely on UNRWA because of hardship. They would welcome the opportunity of being

able to revive their skills — and would much prefer to be self-supporting than to take assistance from the Agency."

The lives of some 100 refugee families have been transformed by the programme.

Jamal Darwish Zamlut living in Gaza is an Agency welfare case now self-employed. Jamal is chronically ill and is unable to work at a regular job requiring much physical effort. In October 1986, he received a \$6,810 grant from UNRWA to open up a video and tape cassette shop. Six months later the monthly income averaged \$300 — more than double the welfare threshold. He has increased his stock by 50 per cent. He has even branched out into children's toys and has also renovated his shop and shelter.

Hasan Mahasin, paralysed in both legs since he was four months old, is one of the pioneers of UNRWA's self-support programme. He can walk only with crutches. With Agency assistance, he opened up a watch repair shop in the sprawling Baga's camp, Jordan. He is also earning extra money by renting out his own home-made coloured lights for weddings and parties.

Model cars make their marque

There is a great — and growing — market for miniature model cars. Not any old model, though; Nick Garnett reports that the demand is for super-detailed, grown-up playthings, the most intricate of which can cost up to \$4,000.

POP STARS love them. Nick Mason of Pink Floyd even visits some of the tiny factories in which they are made. Film directors buy them. John Frankenheimer had many of his stolen but recovered most of them. Children drool over them but it is mostly their fathers who collect them.

In Britain and across Europe, perhaps hundreds of small businesses have been set up to pander to a growing phenomenon. In non-descript sheds, small factories or even domestic kitchens, high-quality miniature cars are being hand-built in their millions.

Made out of metal or resin, these grown-up playthings, rather like super Dinkies, usually cost between £20 (\$36) and £150. The most detailed models, such as those made by the Italian company Bosica, can cost £2,000 or more.

Normally made to a 1:43 scale, the cars have a feel that sets them apart from a toy. They can weigh up to 11b. The models might come with photo-etched windscreen frames and radiator grilles, leather seats and sun visors. Many are sent to the U.S. where demand is strong but the production of miniature metal cars is low. Some sales are directed at the collector interested in a theme. Rock guitarist Eric Clapton, for example, has a huge collection of miniature Ferraris. "Collectors are just big kids really," says one maker.

A small but important business is supplying vehicle manufacturers with promotional miniature models. Souveniers in Lincoln makes them for Saab, and NZG and Conrad in West Germany have cornered much of the market

for model tractors, trucks and construction machinery.

The models are often the product of one man in his own garage. Companies such as Brooklin in Bath, Western Models in Somerset, Danhausen and Tin Wizard in West Germany and the French company AMR might employ about 20, using casting machines derived from the jewellery trade and generating yearly sales of up to £0.5 million.

Although these businesses are small, the demand for collectable miniature cars is expanding so fast that it is starting to influence the marketing of much larger companies which produce toy cars for children.

"Big toy companies used to laugh at us but they are now having to get into the collectors' market," says Mr. John Hall, Brooklin's owner. "This used to be a nothing market but now it is potentially enormous."

As yet, the products of the toy companies do not compete in quality with the French, British and Italian concerns specialising in detailed models.

The worldwide miniature and toy car industry is immensely fragmented. At the bottom end of the toy market, where miniatures have virtually no proper scale and employ crude die-cast metal, world production has been concentrated in Hong Kong and Macau, and now in Thailand and South Korea.

Further up the ladder are manufacturers making quality, die-cast miniatures in large numbers essentially for the toy market and including much of the Macau-made Matchbox range. Britains and Corgi in the U.K. and Majorette in France.

Matchbox, part of the Univer-

sal group of Hong Kong, is resurrecting the Dinky — once Europe's most famous miniature carmaker — name this year to make what it says will be "collectable" miniature cars. Corgi, in Swansea, the U.K.'s biggest producer of toy cars, is expanding output of its Corgi Classics, which are partly aimed at collectors. In France, Majorette has purchased Solido, a maker of classic die-cast cars at the bottom end of the collectors' market.

The Continental Europeans have a stranglehold so far on this section of the industry, producing at costs that British manufacturers find tough to compete with. As well as Solido, these companies include Eligor of France, Rio and Brumm in Italy, and Vitesse in Portugal, selling models at prices as low as £6. Burago of Italy uses a small factory equipped with robots to manufacture high-quality miniatures of various scales at low production cost. Surprisingly, the Soviet Union is in this sector with Zil and Chalka model cars built by Auto USSR.

At a higher quality level are the specialist hand-building model makers. Most of these use centrifugal casting machines and tin alloy instead of die-cast techniques.

Western Models was set up 14 years ago by Mike Stephens, a 45-year-old former travel agent, and produces more than 15,000 miniatures a year at a small factory in Taunton, Somerset. About 75 per cent of the company's £320,000 turnover comes from exports.

Western has some 100 models in its catalogue, most priced at between £30 and £130. The company also makes promotional models for companies including the Marlboro McLaren racing team and Aston Martin.

Financial Times feature.



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The Swedish champ ends three years of frustration

Wilander foils Cash's bid for Australian Open title

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Mats Wilander of Sweden ended three years of frustration Sunday with his triumph at the Australian Open.

Wilander beat Australian Pat Cash 6-3, 6-7, (7-3), 3-6, 6-1, 8-6 to take the men's singles title and dispel any fears that he had lost the winning style with which he launched his career.

The 23-year-old Swede knew success at an early age. He won the French Open at 17 and then collected two successive Australian Open titles in 1983 and 1984. But since winning the French Open again in 1985, he had found Grand Slam success — the gauge against which top tennis players are measured — hard to nail down.

Last year, Wilander came second best to world number one Ivan Lendl in both the French and U.S. Open finals and he was admitted on Sunday he would have found it tough to recover from another Grand Slam final defeat.

"I played well last year, but I lost in two close finals," he said. "It would have been very hard to continue to work hard if I'd lost this one. That's for sure."

"I don't know whether I can compare this title with the others. The first time I won a Grand Slam tournament, I guess that was bigger."

"But, I think this one is different because I've been working much harder than before."

Wilander's skill has never been in doubt. He possesses a powerful serve, a solid baseline game and iron nerves.

Skills alone don't pay

But, the success of Lendl and Cash, who both follow harsh fitness regimes, convinced Wilander his skills were no longer sufficient to guarantee success.

Over the past six months, Wilander has worked on his speed and agility. This has helped increase the scope of his game to encompass netplay.

Wilander collected \$105,000 for the victory, plus a \$50,000 Men's International Professional Tennis Council primary event bonus. Cash, the No. 4 seed, earned \$52,500 plus a \$25,000 bonus.

Both new talents came proved important during the final and ultimately guaranteed victory on one point in the fifth and final set when the score was locked at 6-6 and deuce.

Wilander scrambled back and forth along the baseline retrieving Cash drives and smashes and then raced to the net to dig out a delicate drop shot.

Cash was so amazed by this athleticism he presented Wilander with a simple smash.

Wilander won the next point to

take a 7-6 lead and then served out for the match.

"I don't think I could have won this match six or seven months ago as I feel I'm a little bit stronger," said Wilander. "I used to lose my concentration because I got tired, but I don't do that that often now."

Wilander was pleased particularly with his performance in the first two sets before the first of two interruptions because of rain.

He won the first set 6-3 and led 4-1 in the second when play was halted for 30 minutes.

"I think it was the best tennis I've ever played in my whole life during those first two sets," said Wilander, who kept an out-of-touch Cash pinned down with the accuracy of his serving and returns.

The break breathed life into Cash who came out firing and won the second set on a tiebreak and the third 6-3.

"I came out and started playing a bit more aggressively and pulled off some great volleys," said Cash who last year lost the final to Stefan Edberg in five sets.

Wilander won the fourth set 6-1 as tiredness crept up on Cash in the wake of his five-set semifinal against Lendl.

"I think it (the Lendl match) just took a little bit of edge off me in the fifth set. I wasn't quite as quick as I would have liked to have been. It's tough playing two tough five-setters in two days," said Cash.

Grove boxes his way through featherweight crown

GAMACHES, France (AP) — Calvin Grove of the United States knocked out Antonio Rivera of Puerto Rico in the fourth round to win the International Boxing Federation (IBF) featherweight title.

The knockout late Saturday night was the 32nd straight victory for Grove. Rivera had not defended his title since August 30, 1986.

Grove was knocked down early in the decisive round, but came off the canvas to stun the champion, knock him down in return and force the referee to stop the fight.

"I proved that I'm not only a boxer but also a puncher," Grove said after the fight.

He said the Rivera blow that decked him down at the start of the fourth round did not hurt him.

"I went down because I didn't see it coming," he said. "But when you're in good shape, as I am, you recover from a punch, even a good one."

Grove said he had been knocked down twice before in 32 fights and has demonstrated he has been able to come back.

"I wasn't about to waste five years of professional fighting with a defeat in my first shot at a title," he said.

Rivera said he felt the effects of his long layoff.

"I am very disappointed," Rivera said. "When I sent him to the canvas, I wanted to finish it off fast — too fast. Now I'll take two months off before getting back in the ring."

The two boxers spent the first round of the scheduled 15-round bout feeling each other out, but Rivera scored in the second round with a hard right to Grove's head.

Grove clearly was in trouble and instinctively went into a clinch with Rivera, before recovering to hit his opponent with a combination of lefts at the end of the round.

Jansher earns another squash title

BLOIS, France (R) — World squash champion Jansher Khan, who won eight Grand Prix titles in 1987, added another to his collection when he defeated Australian Brett Martin 10-8, 9-2, 9-0 in the Blois International final Sunday.

Fifth-seed Martin, playing in his first Grand Prix final a day after his 25th birthday, resisted strongly in the first game before the 18-year-old Pakistani overran him.

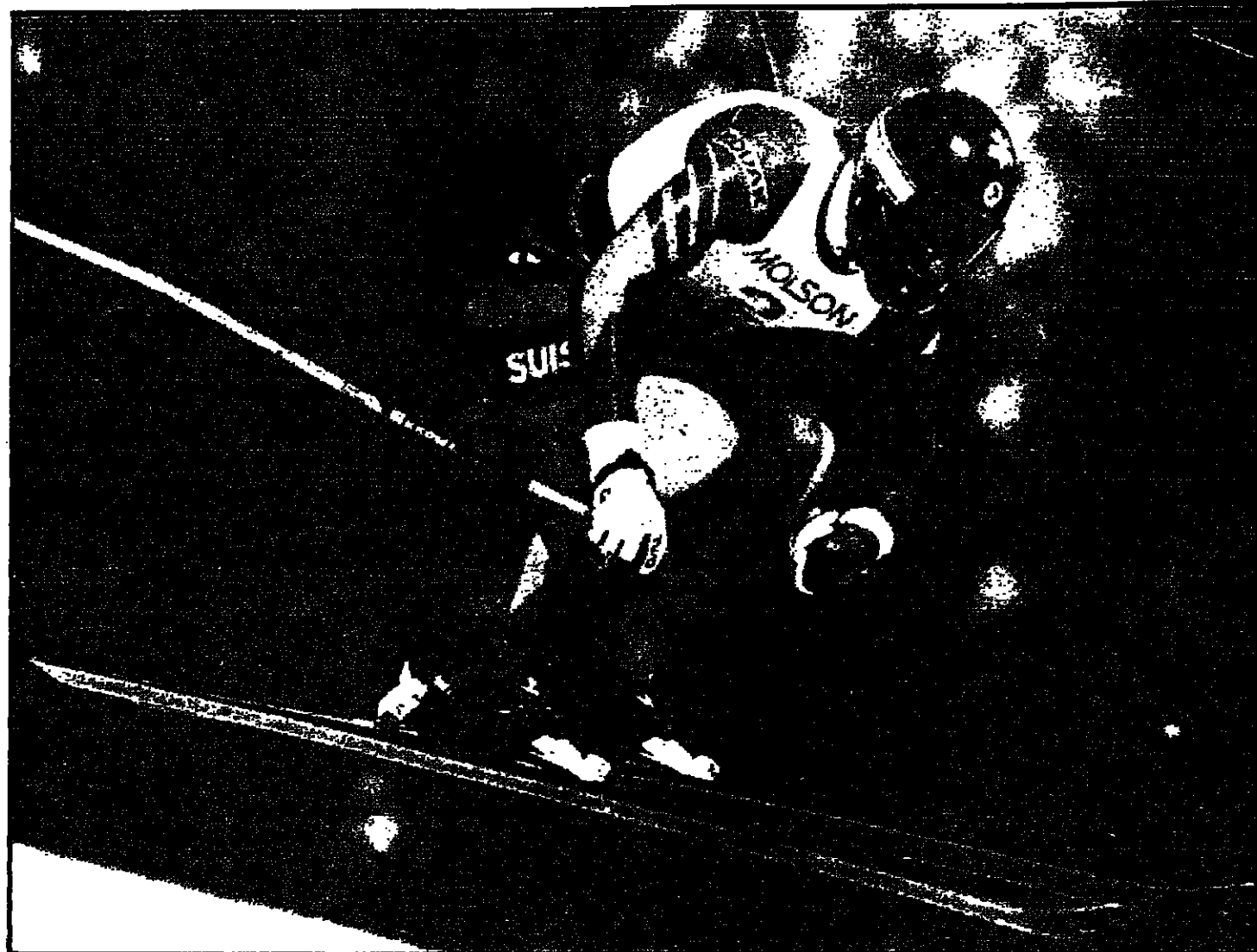
The Australian, ranked 13th in the world, clawed his way back from 7-1 down to 8-8 in the first game only to waste his good effort with two simple mistakes which enabled the top seed to take it.

Martin had played the first game to his own strengths, slowing down the tempo of the rallies and hitting good length, but world number one Jansher then subjected him to the full brunt of his power and agility, allowing him only two further points to close the match in 42 minutes.

Martin, often overshadowed by his higher-ranked younger brother Rodney, was still delighted to have contested a Grand Prix final.

Jansher travels next to Antwerp for the Belgium Trophy (January 27-31), followed by the Finnish Open in Helsinki (February 4-8).

His next meeting with compatriot Jahangir Khan, whom he displaced as number one in the world rankings at the turn of the year, is scheduled for the Spanish Open in Madrid at the beginning of March.



ON THE ROAD TO CALGARY: Leaders of the pack including Italy's Alberto Tomba and Swiss teammates Michel Fagnoli and Pirmin Zurbriggen (File photo)

Mahrer leads Swiss downhill triumph on the Alps

LEUKERBAD, Switzerland (AP) — Daniel Mahrer led a Swiss double sweep in a World Cup downhill race Sunday, posting his second win of the winter and underscoring his team's dominance of the discipline.

Mahrer clinched the race with a speed surge at the end of the course, sweeping through an icy curve and finish stretch to set a time of 2 minutes, 17.53 seconds. Teammate Franz Heinzer was

the runnerup, only 38-hundredths of a second behind Mahrer despite the handicap of starting first. Igor Cigolla of Italy, who started 32nd, skied to a surprising third place in 2:18.00.

It was the fourth Swiss victory in six downhill races this winter, a string broken only by Rob Boyd of Canada last month and Italy's Michael Mair at Leukerbad Saturday, when fresh snow on the course upset the favourites.

Mahrer, 26, won the season opening downhill at Val d'Isere. Felix Belczyk of Canada finished fourth and Gustav Oerthli completed the strong Swiss showing with fifth place.

After about 10 centimetres of overnight snowfall, organisers decided to send six starters from the last group down the course to help compact the snow for the favourites starting in the first group.

The hill, the longest on this season's circuit at 3,810 metres, had firm and was about 1.5 seconds faster than Saturday.

The race proved almost as disappointing as Saturday's for two Swiss aces, defending World Cup champion Pirmin Zurbriggen and downhill world champion Peter Mueller.

Zurbriggen, second in the overall cup standings, got the loudest cheers from spectators but finished 13th, 1.64 seconds behind Mahrer. Mueller was even further behind at 2:19.72.

The placing gained Zurbriggen only three points for a total of 166, 40 points behind leader Alberto Tomba of Italy, a slalom specialist who does not race downhill.

In the downhill standings, Zurbriggen retained the lead ahead of Mair and Boyd.

Mair, whose superb gliding ability proved decisive in Saturday's race, finished eighth, 1.15 seconds behind.

Schneider wins women's circuit
Vreni Schneider of Switzerland

won the sixth women's World Cup of Alpine Ski Race of the season as she combined two smooth runs down a short course Sunday.

Schneider clocked 38.94 seconds and 40.70 for a total time of 1 minute, 19.11 seconds. Both times were the fastest of the slalom runs.

Second place went to Christa Kinshofer of West Germany, 1:19.73 and third was another Swiss, Corinne Schmidhauser, 1:19.79.

It was the second victory of the season and 13th of her career for the 23-year-old from Elm. In January she won a giant slalom in Tignes, France.

Brigitte Oerthli of Switzerland won the combined event, which included results of Saturday's downhill and Sunday's slalom. Oerthli's victory meant that Switzerland has now won the last seven women's events and 13 of the season's 20 races.

Schneider led after the first heat in 38.41, which was held in a constant snowfall through 47 gates that dropped 157 metres.

The snow had stopped by afternoon. Schneider skied 15th in the afternoon heat and took the lead from Kinshofer, who celebrated her 27th birthday Sunday.

Camilla Nilsson of Sweden was fourth in the slalom race, clocking 1:19.86. Yugoslavia's Mateja Svet was fifth in 1:20.46.

A quartet of Austrians followed: Monika Maierhofer, Ida Ladstaetter, Ulrike Maier and Anita Wachter.

North bids Redskins good luck before Super Bowl showdown

HERNDON, Virginia (AP) — American Lt. Col. Oliver North bid the Washington Redskins good luck Saturday after the team finished its final workout before going to San Diego for the Super Bowl.

Cornerback Darrell Green aggravated his rib injury during the two-hour session, but coach Joe Gibbs dismissed the mishap as minor and preferred instead to talk about North's surprise appearance.

"Oliver North has gotten to be a friend of ours," Gibbs said. "He came here at Christmas and the players got a kick out of it. So he came out again today to wish us off."

The Redskins were scheduled to leave for San Diego Sunday night and resume practice Monday for their Jan. 31 Super Bowl date with the Denver Broncos.

North, the former National Security assistant accused in the arms-for-Iran-hostage deal, arrived shortly before the end of practice. He was invited onto the field, and after shouts of "Ollie, Ollie," subsided, he spoke to the team. He is a U.S. marine.

"Our players like the colonel," Gibbs said. "You know those marines going over the hill, they've got a lot at stake, too. A little more than what we have." Meanwhile, Green sat out most

of the practice after being struck in the ribs with a football. Three weeks ago, in a playoff game at Chicago, he suffered pulled cartilage in his ribs while running back a punt for a touchdown.

"Darrell got stung again, he got hit," Gibbs said. "But I don't think it's any big deal. He finished practice and shouldn't miss any time."

Starting defensive tackle Darrell Grant missed much of the session because of a sprained ankle, but Gibbs said he expected him to be ready before the Super Bowl.

Offensive tackle Joe Jacoby missed some drills due to a shoulder injury he suffered Friday, but he said, "the shoulder's fine. It's just a slight strain."

The players were pleased to bid farewell to Redskin Park, where they have practised since late August.

"We're glad to get out of here. I know that," defensive end Dexter Manley said. "I don't have any sentimental feelings about leaving here for warm San Diego."

Gibbs said he hoped the players would be more intense on the west coast than they were in the east.

"We've had good work, but they (the players) haven't concentrated the way we like," Gibbs said. "Hopefully, we'll get everything out of our system and on Wednesday get back to some serious, hard work."

Gibbs did not lay the team's placekicking controversy to rest. Would it be the inconsistent Ali Haji-Sheikh, who has missed five of his last eight field goal attempts, or Jess Atkinson, who hasn't kicked in a game since suffering a dislocated left ankle Sept. 13?

Gibbs has said Haji-Sheikh is his man, but Saturday he said Atkinson would continue to kick during practices at San Diego.

"If something's not going well, there's always doubt," Gibbs said. "But right now it's resolved as far as I'm concerned."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

'Region already has most facilities for games'

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — The San Francisco Bay area already has most of the facilities necessary if the region succeeds in its bid to host the 1996 Summer Olympics, a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee said Saturday. The only major facility missing is a velodrome, which all the other American cities in the running also lack. Richard Harkness said. Harkness, along with nine other members of the Olympic committee, spent Friday and Saturday visiting arenas, pools and other sports centres in San Francisco, the San Francisco Peninsula and the East Bay. They also heard a presentation by San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery about the city's planned sports arena.

Mechelen closes gap at top of league

BRUSSELS (R) — Mechelen narrowed the gap at the top of the Belgian First Division Soccer League Saturday night with a 2-0 win over leaders Antwerp. In a key tie at the re-start to the season after a five-week winter break, goals by Lei Clijsters in the 71st minute and Piet den Boer in the 87th min ensured a comfortable home victory for Mechelen. They have 30 points, two behind Antwerp.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB extends JD 7.7m industrial loans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) last year granted 58 loans totalling JD 7.713 million to local industries. An IDB bulletin said that the loans financed purchases of raw materials and fixed assets.

Trade chiefs to meet Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The executive council of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce is due to meet Wednesday to discuss trade issues and review a report by the federation's secretariat. The council is expected to review the Jordanian trade law, the work of a Jordanian-Turkish economic committee and participation in an international economic seminar to be held in Switzerland. The subject of setting up a Jordanian industrial exhibition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in March will also be on the council's agenda.

Lawzi leaves for IFAD meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Lawzi left for Rome Sunday to take part in the 14th meeting of the council of governors of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The participants in the five-day meeting due to start Monday will discuss means of supporting agricultural projects in member nations during 1988 and major projects that had been implemented in cooperation with IFAD.

NAF helps 1,662 families in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has granted JD 410,797 in aid to 1,662 families in Irbid Governorate until the end of 1987. Irbid Social Development Department Director Zaki Al Tal said Saturday. Tal added that the fund also granted emergency aid totalling JD 2,818 to 43 families who lost their breadwinners. It also allocated JD 31,225 for vocational rehabilitation and JD 1,123 for physical rehabilitation.

Arab-British Chamber of Commerce highlights Jordanian-Scottish link

LONDON — A hitherto unpublished link between Scotland and Jordan concerning technology transfer could, within a few years, prove to have a valuable effect on business prospects for both sides and in the Arab region in general.

Under the auspices of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, in response to a proposal made by Burhan Dajani, secretary general of the General Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture for Arab Countries, a working group has made considerable progress towards linking the Scottish and Jordanian private sectors in partnership.

For many years, Arab countries have been in dialogue with the European nations in an attempt to secure a systematic transfer of technology. Salamata had developed, and Dajani sought to overcome the impasse, by shifting the dialogue to the arena of the private sector. The Arab-British Chamber of Commerce agreed to become the vehicle for this idea.

Abdul Karim Al Mudaris, the chamber's secretary general & chief executive, appointed a small, highly proficient study group to examine the proposal and identify how it might become a reality.

The group concluded that it would be best to select a specific region within the United Kingdom, which would enable the relevant private enterprises to respond to initiatives. The group decided after consideration of all other U.K. regions, to look at Scotland.

The group recognised that Scotland has a large reservoir of industrial, engineering, technical and market-oriented academic skills. Its independent financial community has created a leading and growing technologically-supported service sector with one of the best records in the world. Its businessmen have a worldwide

Insurance companies merge

AMMAN (J.T.) — The French insurance company Union de Paris has agreed to merge with the Middle East Insurance Company. Earlier, Petra Insurance Company announced it had decided to merge Middle East Insurance.

Insurance companies in Jordan were given an extension until Jan. 31 to meet certain criteria or merge. Five companies have not still announced any plans to meet the government's requirement.

Charitable societies to get JD 8,700

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has decided to grant charitable societies in the Kingdom a sum of JD 8,700 to help them improve their social services. A council spokesman said that the beneficiaries are 20 societies in addition to societies which offer care for handicapped people in Karak, and one that offers help to orphans in Amman.

Jordanian economist to address international trade symposium

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (ASPIP), Talal Abu Ghazaleh, will participate in an international symposium organised by the International Centre for Business and Commerce, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. The symposium is jointly sponsored by the university and the French embassy in the United States, entitled "The New GATT Agenda".

Abu Ghazaleh will deliver a presentation on trade-related aspects of intellectual property which is currently under GATT discussions.

Riyadh raises phone charges

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has raised telephone charges for the first time in 14 years in efforts to bridge a budget deficit caused by stagnant oil income.

Deputy minister for posts Fouad Abu Mansour said in an interview carried by the Saudi Press Agency the move was taken to keep pace with rates in neighbouring countries.

Local calls, installation charges, annual fees, telex and telegram charges will all be increased. But the price of long distance and international telephone calls is unchanged.

So far this year the Saudi government has had to backtrack twice in its plans to increase revenues, revoking first a controversial plan to tax foreigners then cancelling a number of planned increases in service charges and selected tariffs.

The government's difficulties in pushing through higher charges in the face of strong public protest sparked rumours last week that a devaluation of the Saudi riyal was in the pipeline to boost the value of dollar-denominated oil exports.

But the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, the central bank, denied on Saturday any change was planned and Saudi interest rates fell sharply on Sunday as speculation receded.

Under the new scheme of telephone charges, the installation fee nearly doubles to 600 riyals (\$160) from 325 riyals (\$87) and a new system is introduced for line charges.

A uniform annual rate of 150 riyals (\$40) will be replaced with charges of 360 riyals (\$96) for main lines, 170 riyals (\$45) for secondary lines with international dialling and 80 riyals (\$21) for lines without international dialling.

Iraq encourages private enterprises

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, which badly needs foreign exchange to pay for its seven-year war with Iran, has turned to private enterprise to keep its shops stocked with consumer goods.

The items are expensive compared to goods imported by the public sector but were all very scarce in the early years of the war.

Mahdi gave no revenue figures for the 1988 foreign trade plan but said the private sector would be allocated 14 per cent of the total, a significant boost on its 1987 allocation.

The public sector would get 79 per cent, two per cent less than in 1987 and the rest would go to mixed public/private or cooperative enterprises.

Mahdi said the new plan gave exporters major incentives in order to swell foreign currency reserves.

Apart from oil, Iraq is a major exporter of sulphur, phosphates

and dates. About 90 per cent of Iraq's hard currency come from oil, which finances the war and its major economic development plan. Exports have increased to about three million barrels per day.

The minister praised recent agreements with other countries which he said played an active role in financing the trade plan. Mahdi said his ministry had saved 60 million dinars (\$192 million) by sharp cuts in bureaucracy. The total number of economic organisations, state companies and directorate-general had been halved.

He said President Saddam Hussein had ordered all state organisations to trim spending.

Islamic bank starts new financial scheme

BAHRAIN (R) — A major Islamic banking group began a public offering Saturday of shares in an investment fund based on Muslim laws which prohibit interest payments.

Saleh Kamel, chairman of the Jeddah-based Al Baraka Group, told reporters the fund was divided into shares with a nominal value of \$100 each.

Ten per cent of the shares are controlled by Al Baraka while the rest are non-voting shares to be sold to the public.

The first offering is worth \$19 million and will be open for one

month, Kamel said. The money will be used to finance the sale of Saudi oil to Turkey and the purchase of real estate in London.

He expected the shares to yield an annual return of 8.425 per cent.

Kamel said the fund was based on the Islamic concept of "mudharaba," under which an investor

buys a product for immediate delivery to a third party. Payment is at a later date, between one and 24 months, at a margin above the market price.

Saudi Cairo Bank seeks increase in capital

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Cairo Bank, one of nine joint-venture banks in the kingdom, is seeking a 300 million riyal (\$80 million) capital infusion to try to overcome a financial crisis dating back to the late 1970s.

The move will effectively halve the 40 per cent stake in the bank held by Egypt's government-owned Banque Du Caire.

Bankers said Saudi Cairo, which is being supported by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, had begun negotiations to double its capital to 600 million riyals (\$160 million).

Only last year, the Jeddah-

based bank floated new shares to bring its capital to the current 300 million, but bankers said that was still not enough to back provisions needed against a mountain of non-performing loans.

At the moment, 60 per cent of Saudi Cairo's capital is held by private Saudi shareholders.

But the new funds would be provided solely by the Saudi government-owned Public Investment Fund. That would mean 480 million riyals (\$128 million) of the total capital would be Saudi and only 120 million (\$32 million) Egyptian, reducing the latter's

stake to 20 per cent from 40 per cent.

Saudi Cairo first ran into trouble in the late 1970s when it lost over \$100 million in speculation on precious metals markets.

It incurred further losses during 1984 and 1985 from lending and has still not published its 1986 accounts.

Most Saudi banks have seen their profits eaten away by provisions, with many of the problem loans stemming from lending to private companies within Saudi Arabia. But bankers said Saudi Cairo appeared particularly hard

hit.

Negotiations over the second capital infusion are expected to be completed as soon as a final tally of Saudi Cairo's necessary provisions has been drawn up, bankers said.

In its last accounts, Saudi Cairo declared net profit for 1985 and since then has been supported by the monetary agency, Saudi Arabia's central bank.

Bankers estimate it has pumped in almost one billion riyals (\$265 million) in interest free deposits which the bank has reinvested to generate revenue.

Creditors look to courts on Third World debt

LONDON (R) — Frustrated creditors are starting to look to courts of law to help them squeeze cash out of debtor countries.

One group has already issued a series of writs to contest terms Nigeria has proposed to settle debts due on imports.

Bankers say this move, along with warnings by a group of North Korea's creditor banks, raise the prospect of seizing these countries' foreign assets.

Will it work? "A good lawyer would tell his clients to give up," said Richard Portes, a professor specialising in international debt studies at Birkbeck College, London.

The Nigerian and North Korean cases could mark a new departure, bankers said.

Creditors usually avoid the courts, at least when the debtor is a sovereign state.

Court action would be bound to blight future business relations

with a debtor nation, and sovereign debtors are protected by immunity legislation making it difficult to persuade a court to seize a debtor's overseas assets.

But the Nigerian and North Korean creditors feel they have little to lose.

A group called confidential recoveries (C.R.), formed by a group of Nigeria's uninsured creditors, may want to initiate a case aimed at recovering \$2 billion of debt they claim they are due but that Nigeria has already rejected, said John Krzyzkowski, the group's lawyer.

Nigeria is contesting writs already filed by the group, which on Monday faces a court action in London to test its policy of not naming its members.

Meanwhile, a group of banks, led by Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd and Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd, to which North Korea owes more than 1.4 billion marks (\$835 mil-

lion), have warned they might take steps to seize North Korean assets.

British law grants immunity from seizure to sovereign assets but this should not pose too great an obstacle, lawyers said. The 1978 state immunity act designated sovereign assets as those belonging to a foreign central bank or monetary authority.

"If you're going for central bank assets you're whistling in the wind," said a British lawyer who had represented Nigeria.

But Krzyzkowski, C.R.'s

lawyer, said that, since Nigeria's central bank had issued promissory notes to cover the debt, it could be deemed by courts to have acted in a commercial capacity, so that the sovereign immunity would not apply.

In addition, he said, the promissory notes debt carried waivers for sovereign immunity.

In North Korea's case, bankers said they had a harder case. They say there are few North Korean assets in Britain to be seized, even assuming they could get an injunction.

Jordan to import more Egyptian rice

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation led by Ministry of Supply Undersecretary Abdullah Al Hawamdeh will travel to Cairo next month to arrange for Jordan's purchase of Egyptian rice, according to a government decision. Hawamdeh will negotiate the purchase of 10 to 20 thousand tonnes of rice for the Jordanian market in implementation of resolutions reached by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee at its last meeting in Amman. Hawamdeh said that tentative agreement has been reached with the Egyptian side that an international firm should inspect samples of the Egyptian rice before shipments to Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller

ACROSS

- 1 Vitality
- 5 Shaver
- 10 — cheese
- 14 Flashed
- 15 Sheepish
- 16 Corn servings
- 17 Space age
- 18 Moral slip
- 19 Unle
- 20 Being
- 22 Hidden
- 24 Scruff
- 26 Dull sound
- 27 Former Port. colony
- 30 Paved way
- 32 Sorensen trial
- 36 Switch settings
- 37 "Look and Pluck" author
- 38 Make happy
- 40 Swiss holiday
- 42 Aden's nation
- 44 Collar
- 45 Harbor sights
- 47 Talk continuously
- 49 Remnant
- 50 More uncanny
- 52 Network of
- 53 Legal thing
- 54 Mild oath
- 56 Imperfection
- 58 Lash
- 62 Frontier
- 66 Director Kazan
- 67 Warble
- 68 Redames' love
- 70 Face powder
- 71 Silly
- 72 Sember or hind
- 73 The material
- 74 Old knowledge
- 75 Lab burner

DOWN

- 1 Fright or
- 2 Torrid
- 3 Type of egg?
- 4 Tiny bit
- 5 Paddy
- 6 A Gardner
- 7 Moves fast
- 8 Start
- 9 Continuing sound
- 10 Stupor
- 11 Frail
- 12 Gaelic
- 13 Secondhand
- 21 Mitchell
- 23 Artistic bait
- 25 Avid
- 27 Furze
- 28 In reserve
- 29 Mary or John
- 30 Jacob
- 31 Object
- 33 Gourmand or gourmet
- 34 Repent
- 35 Insects
- 36 Extend a
- 37 subscription
- 41 Jack
- 43 Luncheon
- 44 Lily bulb
- 46 Successor to
- 51 Like bad
- 52 Food regimen
- 53 Diplomat
- 54 Sunk
- 55 Soaks fax
- 56 Soviet range
- 58 Gear or
- 59 Small amount
- 60 Food regimen
- 61 Bait or
- 62 Anthony
- 63 — sive
- 64 Unit

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

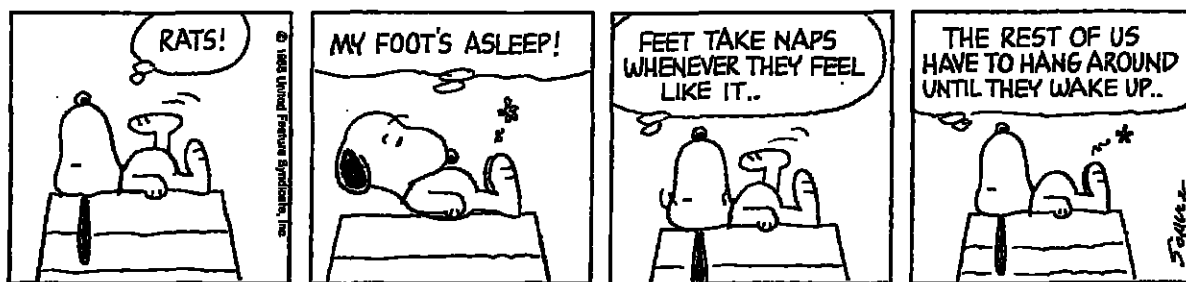
ACROSS

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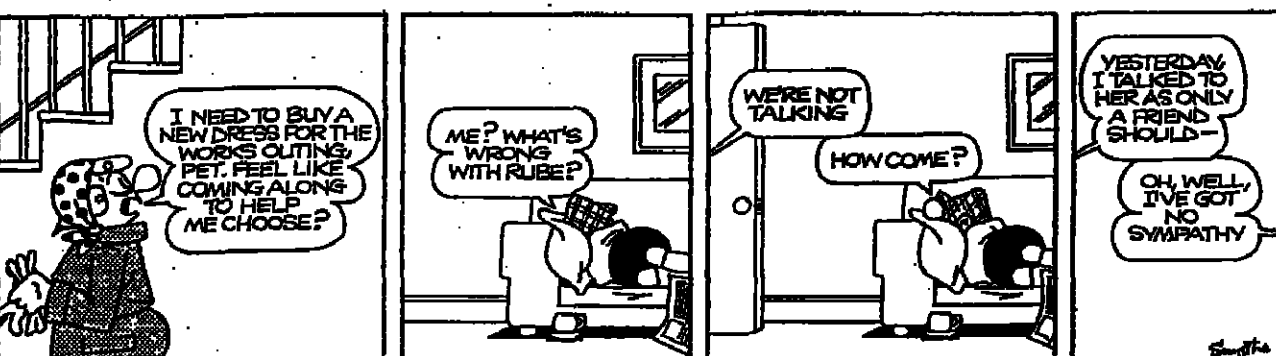
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

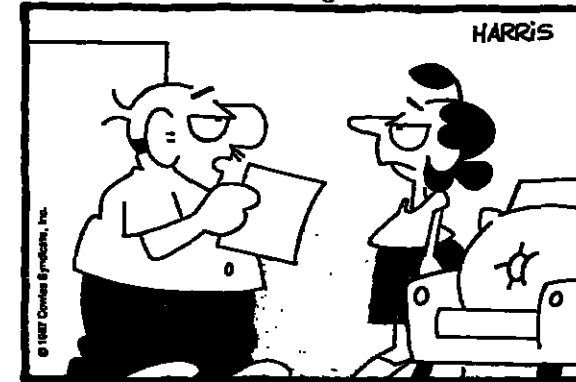


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"The bank made a mistake on our account. Now we have to pay a \$20 'nuisance' penalty."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GENUB

EGGOU

UMLUTT

LEHTAH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: HEDGE BOWER WAYLAW SWIVEL

Answer: What the dictionary buff was— "WORDLY" WISE

10 killed, 300 injured in police firing in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — Police and opponents of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad clashed Sunday when opposition leader Sheikh Hasina led a procession through the port city of Chittagong. At least ten people died and as many as 300 were wounded, witnesses said.

A senior opposition official, Abdul Jalil, put the death toll at 10. Contacted by telephone in Chittagong, he accused police of firing "abruptly and without provocation."

Hasina was not hurt and shouted at police to hold their fire, according to two of her aides in Dhaka, who were in contact with Chittagong.

Journalists in Chittagong said violence erupted throughout the southeastern city after police fired rifles and tear-gas as Hasina and several thousand supporters arrived at a rally site.

After police fired, protesters threw homemade bombs and set fire to at least six vehicles, the journalists said.

Zahidul Karim, Chittagong correspondent for Dainik Bangla newspaper, told his Dhaka office he saw three bodies.

"There were many injuries. The emergency department of the Chittagong medical college hospital overflowed with injured persons," Karim reported.

The government did not comment immediately. People answering telephones at the offices and homes of senior officials said no one was available for comment.

Jalil, who is the international affairs secretary for Hasina's Awami League, said police first fired at the rally site in the Lal-dighi grounds in central Chittagong. He said police subsequent-

ly opened fire in several parts of the city, which is 233 kilometres southeast of Dhaka.

A Chittagong resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he heard scores of bomb blasts in the Lal-dighi neighbourhood.

Hasina, who is trying to force Ershad to resign from the presidency, had led a six-hour, 16-kilometre procession from Chittagong airport to the Lal-dighi grounds.

When the firing started, Hasina shouted from atop a truck: "Rise against the killer regime of Gen. Ershad and topple it through mass movement," her aides in Dhaka reported.

As people ran in panic, Hasina shouted at police: "Do not fire at the masses. They are your fathers and brothers," the aides said.

The aides, Mohammad Karzon and Tapan Das Gupta, said Hasina then was driven to a nearby library.

Mourners defy S. African ban

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — Mourners turned the funeral of black newspaper editor Percy Qoboza into a passionate denunciation of South Africa's apartheid racial segregation laws Sunday.

Despite a police ban on political speakers, a multi-racial congregation of thousands in Soweto's cavernous Regina Mundi Church heard tributes to jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and bitter attacks on "white oppression."

"We will bury Percy Qoboza with dignity and not according to the dictates of somebody sitting somewhere," Aubrey Mokoena of "The Free Mandela Campaign" said.

Qoboza, whose anti-apartheid crusade brought him a jail term and the closure of his newspaper by the government, died last Sunday at the age of 50.

Using emergency powers, police decreed that only clergymen and officially-authorised speakers could address his funeral in the heart of South Africa's biggest black township near Johannesburg.

Indian troops blamed for delay in Sri Lankan peace

COLOMBO (AP) — The leaders of Sri Lanka and India prepared for talks this week amid complaints that Indian troops are delaying peace in Sri Lanka because they have failed to disarm Tamil rebels.

President Junius Jayewardene and two cabinet ministers will meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India in New Delhi to discuss the troubled peace accord.

Under the agreement, India sent an estimated 25,000 soldiers to Sri Lanka and Tamil rebels were to lay down their arms in exchange for greater autonomy in parts of the country.

Senior Sri Lankan government officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Saturday that Jayewardene would tell Gandhi that Sri Lanka has completed its part of the peace accord between the two countries, but peace has been delayed by the failure of Indian troops to "defeat the Tamil Tigers."

Other issues will include allegations that Indian troops have raped women and looted towns, the officials said.

The peace accord, signed in Colombo last July 29, called for elections to establish councils in all of the island's nine provinces by Dec. 31, 1987.

Another clause of the agreement called on the Sri Lankan government to lift the emergency regulations covering the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern provinces by last Aug. 15.

"Both time-frames have fallen by the wayside because from Sri

Lanka's point of view the Tamil Tigers have not been subdued by thousands of Indian troops," said one Sri Lankan government source.

The civil war began four years ago when Tamil rebels began agitating for an independent homeland.

Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of the national population of 16 million, say they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority. Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent of the population and control the national government and the military.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are the most dominant Tamil rebel group and have rejected the peace accord.

Government sources said they did not believe that the provincial elections would be held until April. The elections would allow the Tamil minority to set up semi-autonomous governments in the northern and eastern provinces.

Jayewardene and his delegation will leave for New Delhi Monday and return next Saturday.

On the eve of his trip, Jayewardene was facing criticism from his fellow Sinhalese, the Tamils and members of his government who increasingly are critical of the Indian presence in Sri Lanka.

The Sinhalese allege that the president has sold out their rights to Tamil extremists. The Tamils say Jayewardene has given them no alternative but to fight for a separate state.

Shevardnadze receives Order of Lenin

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze Sunday was awarded the Order of Lenin, his country's top decoration, to mark his 60th birthday and his contribution to the Communist Party and Soviet state, TASS said.

Shevardnadze, who took over as foreign minister from Andrei A. Gromyko in July 1985, helped negotiate the treaty to ban intermediate-range nuclear missiles that was signed at last month's superpower summit.

In meetings with U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Shevardnadze resolved many of the stickiest negotiations on the pact.

Shevardnadze has also given Soviet diplomacy a more personable face than the dour Gromyko, who is now the titular head of the Soviet state.

TASS said Shevardnadze "received the top decoration for great services to the Communist Party and the Soviet state," but did not elaborate.

Before becoming foreign minister, Shevardnadze was head of the Communist Party in the Georgian Republic, where he gained a reputation for cracking down on rampant corruption.

He is the only non-Slavic member of the 13-member Politburo, the country's ruling body.

He was the first Soviet official to receive the Order of Lenin since Mikhail Gorbachev took over the Kremlin leadership in March 1985.

Uzbekistan officials stole \$5 billion

MOSCOW (R) — More than four billion rubles (over \$5 billion) were stolen from government coffers in Soviet Uzbekistan in a corruption scandal involving the cotton industry, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Saturday. Three people have been executed over the scandal, first published in 1984, which involved skimming off state funds by padding cotton production figures. Pravda said investigators working for five years in Uzbekistan had uncovered a system of organized crime, racketeering, "underground millionaires" and hired killers. It said the investigation was almost complete but did not say when it would be finished. The former Uzbek party chief, Sharaf Rashidov, died in 1983 before the scandal broke but was posthumously accused of corruption and stripped of all his official honours.

Former guerrilla foes fall in love in jail

ROME (R) — Two former Italian urban guerrillas — one from the extreme right and one from the far left — have buried their ideological differences and fallen in love in prison. The affair involves Emilia Libera, 34, a former member of the Red Brigades leftist guerrilla group and Sergio Calore, 36, formerly of the extreme right revolutionary Armed Nuclei, according to Italian newspaper and television reports. "The two kids love each other," the Rome daily La Repubblica quoted prison chaplain Father Natale Fianco as saying. "Detention brings people together. One thinks of the future, one hopes, one gives each other courage," the priest added. The lovers, both "repentant" guerrillas who have cooperated with police since their arrest, have been twice granted permission to leave the prison south of Rome for several weeks because of good behaviour. When they were on the run, Libera and Calore were connected with some of the most notorious guerrilla actions — she with the kidnapping of U.S. General James Dozier in 1981 and he with a Bologna railway station bomb which killed 85 people in 1980. Their respective groups readily killed each other's members.

U.S. university names centre for Khashoggi

WASHINGTON (R) — A sports complex named for Saudi Arabian businessman Adnan Khashoggi, one of the figures involved in the Iran-contra affair, will be opened at American University Saturday night with a basketball game. Khashoggi donated \$5 million for the \$20 million complex, which includes a 5,000-seat basketball arena, a swimming pool, squash and racketball courts and exercise rooms. American University President Richard Berenson said there had been little student protest about naming the centre for Khashoggi despite his role in providing financing for the sale of U.S. arms to Iran in 1986. Berenson said he had no reservations about accepting the money for the independent university, which has no connection with American University in Beirut.

Sex book may cost Wright's aide his job

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, West Virginia (AP) — A press aide hired by House of Representatives speaker Jim Wright to polish his image is likely to lose his job following disclosure that he wrote a sex book in 1982, congressional sources said Saturday. George Mair was hired on a six-month contract by Wright in December to correct what the speaker called "factual errors" in some news accounts about his intervention with federal regulators on behalf of ailing Texas savings and loan institutions. But rather than smoothing matters, Mair sparked controversy by sending out stinging letters to numerous news organisations criticising their coverage and, in one instance, accusing reporters of "possibly" plagiarising material. On Thursday, Wright's staff was alerted to a new problem. Reporters checking Mair's background had come up with a list of more than a dozen books he had written, including the sex volume. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram and the Washington Post both carried stories Saturday on Mair's authorship of the book "The Sex Book Digest: A Peek behind the Covers of 113 of the Most Erotic, Exotic, Edifying Sex Books."

Goukouni accuses Habre of assassinations

OUAGADOUGOU (R) — Chad's opposition leader Goukouni Oueddei has accused President Hissene Habre's government of assassinating two exiled political opponents.

Goukouni, Habre's predecessor as Chad president, said in an interview the assassinations took place in Nigeria and Cameroon earlier this month.

"Now that reconciliation efforts have failed, N'djamena is resorting to terrorist tactics of intimidation," he said.

Goukouni said one of his supporters, an Arabic teacher he named as Ibrahim Ousdaz was gunned down on Jan. 14 in the

Cameroon town of Kousseri, on the banks of the River Chari, which marks the frontier between Chad and Cameroon.

Two days later, at Maiduguri in northeastern Nigeria, Goukouni said his local representative, Adam Yaro, was killed by four commandos among whom eyewitnesses recognised Touka Haliki, police chief in N'djamena.

Goukouni, who held talks Saturday with Burkina Faso leader Blaise Compaore, called for protection for Chadian exiles by the countries which offer them shelter and by the United Nations high commissioner for refugees.

Goukouni was overthrown by Habre in 1982. He formed an alliance with Libya, but broke with Tripoli in October 1986.

His forces joined Habre's army, but he has refused to follow other rebel leaders who rallied to Habre after his rout of Libyan forces in a series of battles early last year in northern Chad.

"Since our armed forces have united on the battleground in the north (of Chad), we have been waiting in vain for national reconciliation worthy of its name which would permit all Chadians to finally return to their country," he said.

Goukouni said Habre was mistaken if he believed he could satisfy the opposition by offering them ministerial posts. In a government shake-up last August, Habre appointed former rebel opponent Wadal Abdul Kader Kamougue as minister of agriculture.

Habre wants rebels to return to consolidate his government, but Goukouni has demanded as a condition for his return various institutional changes, including a revision of the provisional constitution, reform of Habre's sole ruling party Unir and reorganisation of the army.

Japan said planning tough sanctions against N. Korea

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese government plans to impose strong sanctions on North Korea for its suspected role in the disappearance of a South Korean airliner in November with 115 people on board, news reports said Sunday.

Japanese newspapers, quoting unidentified Foreign Ministry officials, said the cabinet was expected to approve the punitive measures Tuesday, including bans on entry into Japan by North Korean officials and on most trips to North Korea by Japanese officials, and limits on diplomatic contacts between the two countries in other nations.

Also as part of the sanctions, Japan will strengthen its cooperation with South Korea at this year's summer Olympics in Seoul and support an expected United Nations resolution condemning North Korea for its alleged role in the disappearance of the plane, the reports said.

Foreign Ministry officials were not available for comment. Japan maintains diplomatic re-

lations with South Korea, but has no official diplomatic ties with North Korea.

On Jan. 15, a woman identified as Kim Hyon Hui, 25, said in a televised news conference in Seoul that she was a North Korean agent and had planted a bomb on board the plane. The Korean Air Boeing 707 disappeared Nov. 29 off the coast of Burma.

The nationally circulated newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun quoted a ministry official as saying the new sanctions, requested by South Korea, are tougher than ones Japan imposed after a 1983 bombing in Rangoon, Burma, that killed 17 visiting South Korean officials.

A Burmese court ruled that North Korean agents were responsible for the 1983 blast. Since then, the earlier sanctions have been discontinued.

The news reports said the new sanctions also will limit the entry of North Korean seamen into Japan and ban any direct charter flights between the two countries.

Warsaw Pact forces seen having heavy edge over NATO

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet-led Warsaw Pact forces enjoy such an edge over NATO that the West should insist on a five-to-one ratio in cuts of conventional forces in Europe, the Rand Corp. said in a study Saturday.

"If we're going to end up with equal forces, we're going to have to start with very unequal reductions," said James A. Thomson, a Rand vice president who directed the study on contract for the U.S. Air Force.

Recent statements by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that the Soviet Union was ready to negotiate seriously on conventional force reductions may breathe new life in the mutual balanced force reduction (MBFR) talks, which have made no progress in 15 years.

Leaders of the 16 nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have not yet formulated the approach they wish to take in so-called conventional stability talks, which are replacing the MBFR negotiations.

"NATO needs to get its act together on conventional arms

control as soon as possible, not only to understand its interests in this area but also to retake the arms control initiative and the public relations edge that goes with it," Thomson said. "Gorbachev may shortly produce a proposal of his own."

NATO should reject any deal that calls for the Warsaw Pact to reduce its forces on less than a five-to-one ratio, said the report, which was based in part on computer simulations of how the opposing forces would fare in battle.

Thomson cautioned that the commonly accepted two-to-one ratio of Warsaw Pact over NATO forces did not take adequate account of air power, in which the Soviets also enjoy an edge.

The Soviets have 2.8 million soldiers to NATO's 2.7 million, 52,200 main battle tanks to NATO's 22,214, 24,035 artillery pieces to NATO's 8,974, 5,229 combat aircraft to NATO's 3,243 and 2,085 armed helicopters to NATO's 714, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

East Germany ready to dismantle INF missiles ahead of schedule

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East German leader Erich Honecker has said that intermediate range nuclear missiles deployed in East Germany and Czechoslovakia could be scrapped ahead of a superpower timetable for their destruction.

Honecker made the statement during a meeting Saturday with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu in East Berlin, the ADN news agency reported.

The East German leader said that an agreement with the Soviet Union had been reached to scrap the missiles "earlier than planned."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gor-

bachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in December signed a treaty to eliminate intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

The treaty was ratified by Warsaw Pact members in East Berlin during a visit by Gorbachev following the summit.

The treaty has not yet been ratified by the U.S. Senate.

It was not clear whether Honecker's statement referred to a timetable for destruction of the missiles independent of the U.S. Senate deliberations or if the missiles would be scrapped ahead of the schedule spelled out in the treaty.

British Liberals endorse merger with Social Democrats

BLACKPOOL, England (Agencies) — Britain's Liberals have drawn the curtain on a political era, voting in massive numbers at a special assembly to merge with the smaller Social Democratic Party (SDP).

In a massive endorsement of leader David Steel, who staked his political life on a merger, the biggest gathering in Liberal Party history voted 2099-385 Saturday for political union with the Social and Liberal Democrats.

The endorsement of more than five to one easily exceeded the two-thirds majority required for merger to proceed and immediately revived speculation that Steel would stand after all for leadership of the new party.

During six months of sometimes acrimonious negotiations, Steel persistently said he was most unlikely to be a candidate for that post after 12 years as

leader of the Liberals, a party rich with a tradition of 19th century humanitarianism but a fringe force in 20th century politics.

Speaking after the vote, Steel said: "I'm determined to see this process through. I feel a great sense of achievement. But it is the end of a chapter and perhaps it is time to begin a new one."

SDP leader Robert MacLennan, who took over that mantle after the merger issue split his party and former leader David Owen announced he would head a breakaway faction, quickly described the vote as "a magnificent result."

Steel gambled on merger swiftly after general elections last June left the two parties, despite a joint campaign on a ticket called the alliance, with only 22 seats between them in the 650-seat parliament. The Liberals took 17 and the SDP five.



David Steel

In his address to the assembly, Steel argued passionately that union would not mean an end to more than a century of liberal ideals.

"I will be a liberal to the day I die," he declared. But he said the new party must look forward, not to the past.

Steel has argued that merger was the only way to forge a viable centrist force in British politics able to challenge the ruling Conservatives of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"Our people want us to become the electable opposition... a truly effective party able to challenge the Tories (Conservatives) at the next election."

The Liberals' 90,000 members will now vote by post to endorse the assembly's decision, a ballot regarded as a formality after Saturday's outcome.

Opposition to the merger had grown since Steel and MacLennan made public a 6,000-word document earlier this month outlining policy for the proposed party.

The document, the culmination of eight months of painstaking and often controversial negotiations, was angrily thrown out by the Liberals. They opposed, among other things, its acceptance of the government's plans to buy U.S. Trident nuclear missiles, its support for nuclear power stations and its call for extending the sales tax to food and children's clothes.

Endorsement of Trident contrasted with the alliance's June electoral pledge to retain only Britain's aging Polaris nuclear missiles.

A new and less controversial policy document was drawn up last weekend by a small team of negotiators.